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sushi fix

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Barbie captures
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Secret to staying
safe in Beijing

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Move over national team, soccer meets real kung fu



CFP Photo

To combine martial arts and soccer is nothing new. The world already saw it once in Stephen Chow's 2001 hit comedy Shaolin Soccer. But a Beijing team is bringing what fantasy into reality with their martial arts skills - and this time, it's CG-free. But can they hope to find a place on the professional circuit with such extraordinary moves?

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I now
pronounce you
wife and wife?

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Author sends
profits to girl
with leukemia

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Mystery buyer
claims stolen
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Stolen relics bought by mysterious bidder

By Venus Lee

After a Paris court rejected requests to block the sale of two bronze animal head sculptures stolen from China's Imperial Summer Palace, the relics were auctioned off hours later for 284 million yuan at close. The identity of the buyer remains unknown as of press time.

At 8 pm Wednesday in France (3 am in Beijing), Christie's began its auction of two bronze sculptures from the Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge collection, a rat's head and a rabbit's head, which started bidding at €9 million (78 million yuan) each and closed at €14 million. The winner was an anonymous telephone bidder.

Christie's said it received eight phone calls for "inquiries" before the sale. After the auction began, competition continued exclusively between phone bidders. Christie's refused to reveal information about the bidders after the sale.

The bronze sculptures were two of the 12 zodiac animal sculptures, once part of a water fountain in Beijing's Old Summer Palace. The heads were stolen when Anglo-French allied forces sacked the Yuanmingyuan during the Second Opium War in 1860.

"What I am worried most about is that the two relics were purchased by a French public museum instead of a private collector," Wu Hao, a Chinese cultural relic's expert in France, said. "If they were bought by a private collector, they won't be taken as national possession. Once they are purchased by a public museum, the French will consider them as French property."

Liu Yang, the chief lawyer



Protesters demonstrated outside the French consulate in Hong Kong.

working to recover the lost pieces, said they will follow what happens. "We are not sure whether the transaction was successful or not, but we will take further legal action as soon as it becomes clear," he said.

Before the auction, The State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) has formally informed Christies of China's strong opposition to the auction, and demanded its cancellation. The Association for the Protection of Chinese Art in Europe, a Paris-based organization, and a team of 81 Chinese lawyers filed a complaint with a Paris court to stop the sale of the two cultural

relics. However, the court rejected their demand Tuesday because the association has no right to represent the Chinese government. The auction continued on schedule at 7pm.

Chen Yan, a Christie's spokeswoman in China, said the auction house would not be making any comment on the French legal

proceedings. However, a new statement from SACH on Thursday morning said that Christie's has broken international conventions and seriously hurt the basic cultural rights and interests of the Chinese people, which will also influence the auction house's development in China. SACH says it was strongly opposed to the auction and criticized the possession of stolen cultural relics. It warned that Christie's would bear the consequences of the auction. It also repeated the country's commitment to retrieve stolen relics by any means, and to abide by related

international conventions and Chinese law. The administration demanded all Entry-Exit departments strictly examine inbound and outbound cultural relics declared by Christie's and its associated agencies in China. SACH said if evidence is insufficient to prove the legitimate source of cultural relics, the administration will not handle its declaration files. Since Christie's have announced the auction last July, the two relics attracted a lot of attention. According to an online survey on Sina.com, almost 90 percent of netizens opposed the auction and demand the pieces be returned. Some called on the government to prohibit all Christie's activities in China, and advocated that Chinese people worldwide boycott future auctions. However, recovering the lost cultural relics is a global problem. As early as 2002, 18 museums including the Louvre and British Museum issued the "Declaration on the Importance and Value of Universal Museums," in which they said they would never return stolen relics to home countries because they consider them the heritage of all mankind, not one country. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), about 1.67 million Chinese relics are housed in 200 museums in 47 countries. Ten times as many are in the hands of private collectors.

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The stolen bronze heads sold for about 284 million yuan together to an anonymous telephone bidder.

IC Photos

Stars may share punishment for medicine ads

By Han Manman

Celebrities will share legal responsibility for appearing in advertisements for unsafe food products, according to the latest draft food safety law.

The law says all social organizations and individuals who recommend unsafe food products in advertisement share "joint liability" with the food's producers if the product harms consumers.

The draft was submitted to the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee for review Wednesday.

Renmin University law professor Yang Lixin said the term "joint liability" means consumers can demand compensation for damages from both the food's producer and the celebrity actors who appeared in the advertisements.

The change was in response to legislators' complaints that false or exaggerated food advertisements - many featuring celebrities - have been cheating and misleading consumers.

The latest draft bans food supervision authorities, as well as industry and consumer associations, from recommending food products to consumers in advertisements or any other form. Directors in these organizations who do not comply will face immediate demotion or dismissal.

The draft also said a food

safety commission will be set up to improve supervision.

The current food safety system involves at least five departments: health, agriculture, quality supervision, industry and commerce administration, and food and drug supervision.

Departments shoulder different responsibilities in food safety. For example, the quality supervision administration should monitor food production. But once foods leave the factory, they are the responsibility of the industry and commerce administration.

Liu Xirong, vice chairman of NPC law committee, said even though the draft clearly defined the department responsibilities, lawmakers worry another organization to coordinate and supervise the department is needed.

The draft, if adopted by the Standing Committee, would take effect June 1. Experts said the law, if passed, will be a milestone in food safety regulation.

The draft has been revised several times since it was first submitted to the NPC standing committee for a reading in December 2007. In April 2008, it was opened to public scrutiny and 11,000 comments were left for lawmakers.

The draft was expected to be adopted last October, but voting was postponed following the tainted dairy product scandal in September.

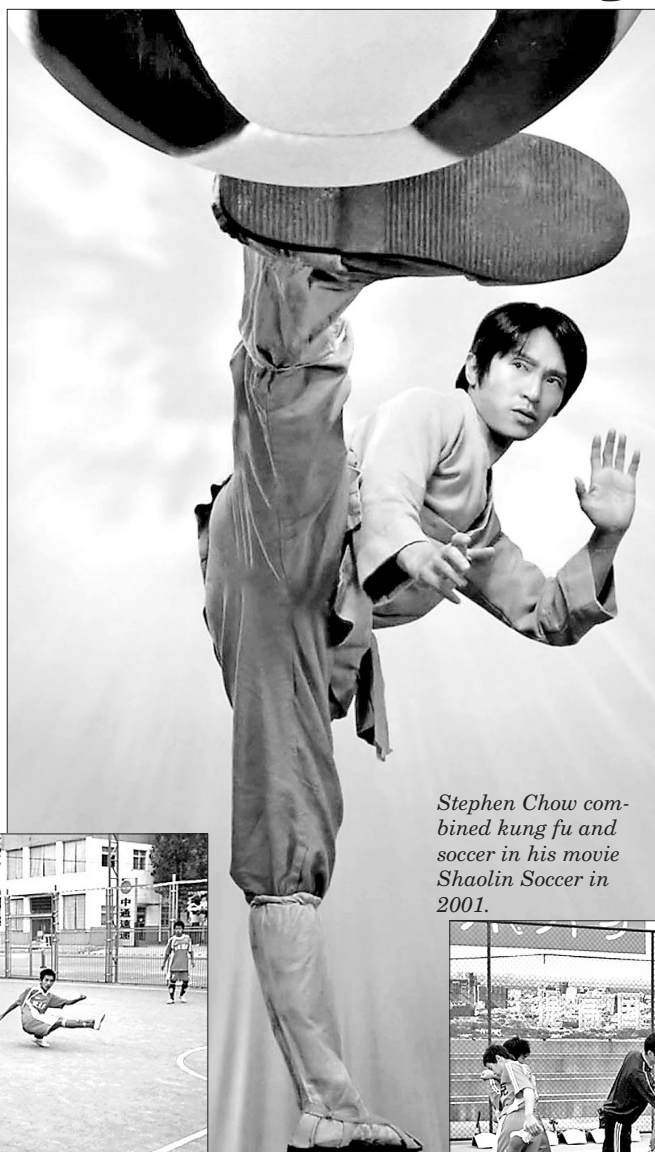
Kung fu soccer a fantasy no more?

By Zhang Dongya

The idea of using kung fu to play soccer first appeared in Stephen Chow's movie *Shaolin Soccer* in 2001. Last year, several soccer fans founded a team in the spirit of the movie, seeking to bring its wild action off the silver screen and onto the field.

While the martial masters in the movie were playing to revive Shaolin kung fu, this team has set for itself an even more daunting task: to revive the national soccer team.

After the five-month-old kung fu soccer team disbanded, Chinese-American Luo Caiyi called the founder to invest 3 million yuan. Despite doubts about the team's future, founder Kong Debao still aims to unite kung fu and soccer. He will meet with Luo next month and begin to regroup.



Stephen Chow combined kung fu and soccer in his movie *Shaolin Soccer* in 2001.



old soccer player on the Beijing Team, to coach the group in May. Chen, 59, had instructed some junior soccer teams in the city and was interested in kung fu. Still, he was reluctant to take the role.

It took some convincing, but Chen started to train the team on May 7 in the suburbs, where a village governor provided a field for free. However, by October their funds had dried up.

A new paradigm

During the five months, the players continued their martial arts training in addition to their daily soccer practice. They woke up at 5:30 am for a 10-kilometer run, practiced martial arts for one hour and then soccer for three. In the afternoon, action director Fan Ziyang showed them ways they could use martial arts moves in soccer.

On weekends, they played against some amateur soccer teams. The kung fu soccer team always won by a huge margin; the players were proud.

Chen said they had the advantage in physical strength, and they could bridge the gap of years of training within a few months. "Their martial arts background

But it was impossible to play without breaking the rules. "Without a doubt, almost all the kung fu movements would constitute illegal kicks, like a leg-sweep would be a major foul on the field," Chen said.

He said kung fu soccer cannot replace or rescue a regular game, but that it is a totally new game which will require new rules of play.

But Kong still dreams of kung fu soccer being a real competition rather than an exhibition sport.

A reason to continue

Most soccer fans consider the kung fu soccer team a way of venting national frustration with the Chinese team, similar to the Shanzhai soccer team assembled in Suzhou on the premise that "there has to be 11 good players in China with a population of 1.3 billion."

But some have been moved by the team's spirit to invest big money in the team. Soccer fans want China to have a team worth cheering for, and at the moment, the kung fu team is their only option.

Kong Debao has invested a lot in his dream. He blew through most of his savings and sold his car at too low a price. Now he is staking his home on soccer.

The instructor Chen Jutong also has hope for the kung fu soccer team. "If we could train the players from childhood, it may be possible to find them a place on the national soccer team," Chen said.

After the team disbanded, some players remained in Beijing hoping for a new chance. Ding Yongwei, 19, from Cangzhou, found a temp job in construction materials. "I am a little old to learn to play soccer, but I love it as well as martial arts. It is rare to have a chance to combine the two, so I will wait in hopes the team can get back together," Ding said.

Kong said if the investment comes through, the only remaining problem will be to find more players.

Most of the martial art schools have no interest in embracing kung fu soccer.

For Liu Haiqin, president of Shaolin Tagou Martial-art School in Henan Province, he considered the future of the students who learned martial arts in the school. "Our students are taking regular courses and studying martial arts at school. If they leave to play soccer, I am not sure what their parents will think, or how we can ensure they still have a future in kung fu," Liu said.

"Theoretically speaking, all the teams that meet the requirements of the Chinese Soccer Association can join professional tournaments. [They need] registered players, a home field, sponsors and participation fees," Xie Zechang, a reporter for *Titan Sports* said. Such teams still have a long way to go before they can go pro.



Players practice martial arts and soccer skills at once.

Photos provided by Kong Debao

Despair of national soccer team

Kong Debao, 38, was born in Heilongjiang Province. Kong, like most super fans, was excited to see soccer matches between the national and foreign leagues, especially after the Chinese soccer league went pro in 1994.

But staying excited is not easy, especially when your home team puts out one abysmal performance after another. The national team ranks 104, below even Ethiopia and Malawi.

Moreover, the team won infamy for their on-field brawls, something most soccer teams leave to the fans. Some media compared the players to "martial arts heroes."

Kong said his motivation for forming a kung fu soccer team was to save the image of Chinese soccer. "Kung fu is a cultural treasure that should be glorified instead of shamed [as it was by the national team]," he said.

His idea dates back to before Chow's film, he said. He said children who train in martial arts have an advantage in physical strength, flexibility and coordination; if they are also taught soccer

skills, they may achieve surprising success, he said.

Five-month trial

In 2002, Kong moved to Beijing to expand his clothing business. After saving money for five years, he began to think about his dream of a kung fu soccer team and looked for opportunities to start it.

Even his friends could not take the idea seriously. In 2007, after he put his plan to paper, he approached a professional soccer coach about the plan. "Are you kidding me?" was the response.

But a talk with Zhang Lu, deputy manager of Beijing's Guo'an Soccer Club, encouraged Kong to start the team. Zhang said someone else suggested using martial artists as soccer players at the Beijing Soccer Association's symposium a decade before, so it may have been worth a try.

Last March, Kong went to recruit players in Cangzhou, Hebei Province, which is known as China's cradle of martial artists and acrobats. With help from the Beijing Institute of Sports Science and some professional equipment, he selected four players from 40 applicants. Later,



Most martial arts kicks, while effective techniques, are illegal in league play.

he found another eight members at the Shaolin Epo Martial-arts School in Henan Province, and one from Beijing.

He invited Chen Jutong, an

brought some useful techniques to them. For example, they could save a ball by using a hopping inside crescent kick rather than their head," Chen said.

Public open about couples' hope for same-sex unions

By Huang Daohen

It is a group both special and normal. Some of them long to be treated as normal, and hope for equal rights and a more tolerant society.

Homosexuals in China, long treated as "living in the closet," came out when 20 gays and lesbians in Beijing took to the streets on Valentine's Day, calling for public support of same-sex marriage.

Beijing Today met up with participants who attended the V-day march. They said now is the time to come out and demand tolerance and acceptance of homosexuality.

Coming out on V-Day

"Love has no boundaries; it has nothing to do with gender," the flyers read. On the Valentine's Day, as many as 20 gay and lesbian activists in Beijing gathered on Qianmen Street, a newly completed shopping avenue near Tiananmen Square, to hand out red roses wrapped in colorful flyers.

"We are homosexuals. We also want a life together with our loved one. Please support all kinds of partnerships and all kinds of love. Please support same-sex marriage," the flyers read.

But flowers alone could hardly get the attention of tourists. The group staged a mock wedding photo session – two men and two women walked together as gay couples and posed for wedding photos on the street.

Their goal was to call for more support and acceptance in a nation where homosexuality has for a long time been seen as something mysterious. "A lot of people around us don't see the gay community, some don't realize we even exist," Cinderella, one of the brides in the event, said.

"Through the event we want to tell people that there are a lot of them [homosexuals], and that we are the same as everyone else," she said.

Cinderella, in her 20's, is from Chengdu, Sichuan Province. She said the group has handed out roses the last two years, but this year was its first time to organize a mock wedding photo shoot. She said they were not a gay rights organization. "We are just a group of friends in the [gay] community who often meet," she said, "When someone suggested doing something different this year, we came up with the wedding photo plan."

The preparation took a week – including time spent buying roses, renting wedding dress and finding volunteer gay couples. The plan was supported by the community and cost almost no money, Zhang Shuai, one of the men who volunteered to



Many onlookers were understanding about lesbian unions, but couldn't come to terms with boy love.

record the wedding with his own equipment, said.

"I think it's a chance for people to meet and understand us," he said.

Public more accepting

The demonstration lasted about an hour during noon rush. For the most part, participants were met with curiosity and smiles, though they did get the occasional scowl. But Cinderella said people who took their flowers showed more understanding.

"Many onlookers expressed their support and said they were aware there are more openly gay men and women in China now," she said, adding that she was nearly moved to tears when a man who looked like a student gave her a thumbs-up and told her to be brave.

Aside from the gay couples who posed for photos and handed out roses, the group also arranged for people to explain to and collect reactions from the public. Sam, of *Les Jia*, a Chinese magazine for gay women and one of the organiz-

As China continues to rise as an international economic power with a fast-growing middle class, one tendency will be a significant increase in public tolerance and acceptance of homosexuality.

ers, was among them.

Sam, also a lesbian, said she busied herself on the sidelines asking people what they thought of the demonstration and answering questions from the crowd. Many were willing to talk to her, she said. One man who



Cinderella (left) and her partner say they wish they could wed for real. Photos provided by Sam

young, Sam said. "I see no problem. Everyone has his or her own way to live, and everyone has a right to get married," a young man who gave his name as Liu said, according to the organizer's video recording.

"I don't know when China will have gay marriage," Liu said. "Not now, but maybe in the future."

But not everyone supported the event. Sam said one old woman came up to her and said the demonstration was not right. "I don't think it is healthy to be gay, and I think it is at odds with Chinese morals," the woman said.

However, the participants said as China continues to rise as an international economic power with a fast-growing middle class, one tendency will be a significant increase in public tolerance and acceptance of homosexuality.

An emerging gay scene

Though no accurate count of the homosexuals in China exists, a survey by the *Global Magazine* shows that the population could be as big as 30 million. Cinderella said the Internet appears to have played a major role in the emergence of the country's gay community.

It is estimated that there were 250 gay-oriented Web sites in 2001, and that number has probably doubled. The Internet has provided an open and accessible venue.

Cinderella, who accepted she was a lesbian three years ago, said that in the past, gays in China had no way to reach out and form partnerships. They could only go to bars, parks and bathhouses to find other gays.

Now, she said things are much easier – especially for those living and working in metropolises like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. They should not have any difficulty learning about each city's gay venues using the Internet.

The government has also grown more tolerant. No police, even the occasionally infamous *chengguan*, attempted to stop the demonstration. The mock wedding went ahead as planned.

Hope for same-sex union

The demonstration came a few weeks before the annual meeting of the nation's parliament. Cinderella said they hope renowned sexologist Li Yinhe can submit a fourth proposal to parliament to legalize same-sex marriage. Li's three previous such proposals were rejected.

Cinderella said although she does not feel pressure from her family and parents, many homosexuals must keep their activities private for fear of embarrassing the family.

If same-sex marriage were legal, it would bring their relationships closer to the norm, she said. "When you look at past notions about same-sex marriage, the Chinese community has already become more open-minded and progressive," she said.

As for offspring, Cinderella said she would choose artificial insemination or adoption.

When asked to predict how the Chinese community's attitude would change toward same-sex marriage in the future, she said she is sure it will be embraced – though she has no idea when.

"When our story is no longer newsworthy, then it will have changed," she said.

NBA imports find culture clash in China

(Reuters) – Increasing numbers of former NBA players are turning to China's professional league for jobs, and their aggressive domination of the court has drawn criticism from a sports system dedicated to developing local players.

China's teams stepped up recruitment abroad this season after new rules allowed them to field two foreign players, a move the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) hoped would attract interest in the league and expose players to tougher competition.

High-level imports such as former NBA players Bonzi Wells and Donnell Harvey have, however, refocused virtually every CBA team's strategy around the scoring power of the foreigners, reducing stats and game time for local players.

"In the past it's been guys who were good but more team-oriented," said Jason Dixon, a US import who has played for the Guangdong Tigers for 10 years.

"This year you're finding a lot of high-caliber NBA players."

"Even in college (Americans) are told, 'If you want to play in the NBA, you have to score, you have to have a sense of selfishness,' and I think the Chinese don't understand that," Dixon said.

The CBA's top 15 scorers this season are all foreigners, and the reaction has not been positive.

Dontae Jones, a former Celtics forward now leading the CBA in points scored, has been described by local media such as Titan Sports as a "cancer" on the Beijing Ducks because he shoots too much.

Former NBA guard Wells, who left the league last month, was also blasted by domestic media for pulling down the stats of his teammates by scoring as many as 50 points per game – without improving Shanxi Zhongyu's record.



Former NBA player Bonzi Wells

CFP Photo

Expert view

The domination of the imports has been detrimental to the growth of Chinese players, who now have less game time, CBA director Zhang Xiong said.

However, increasing play time for imports has also helped to make the CBA more physical, and has created competition that forces local players to improve, Zhang said.

The CBA is ultimately a training ground for players in a state-run sports system focused on increasing China's success in international competitions.

The association has encouraged physical play this season after critics, including Houston Rockets center Yao Ming,

said the league's low-contact style was not producing players tough enough for international games.

"We want to become Asia's best professional league," Zhang said. "Then we can use this status to send high-level players to the national team and achieve historical breakthroughs at the Olympics and the world championships."

The imports meanwhile need to learn about China's playing culture and adjust to its less individualistic style, he said.

"They are here to help CBA teams play, not just to exhibit their own shooting skills," Zhang said.

(Agencies)

British minister turns to Confucius to raise school standards

(The Times) – China's most famous philosopher could hold the answer to Britain's education problems.

Jim Knight, the British minister of schools, wants to import the teachings of the ancient Chinese philosopher into English classrooms in the hope they might boost exam results.

He has declared that every pupil should have access to a school where they can learn Mandarin, and is drawing up plans to spread the wisdom of China's most famous sage throughout comprehensives, or secondary school.

"There is a lot we can learn from the Chinese culture and Confucius," he said. "Confucius said that, alongside knowledge, you should have time to think. It is not just about acquisition of knowledge, but about respect for the importance of education and the family, and that is something I would love to see engendered in our culture as well as it is in China."

Knight announced the unusual new initiative as he returned from a fact-finding trip to China to investigate how schools in England might benefit from Chinese teaching methods.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families wants to know why children from Chinese backgrounds outperform every other ethnic group in Britain.

During the trip, Knight visited the Confu-



A ceremony dedicated to the opening of a Confucius Institute in Ukraine in 2007. There are now 156 Confucius Institutes across the globe.

CFP Photo

cius Institute in Beijing, where he discussed setting up a network of "Confucian classrooms" – centers of excellence in teaching Mandarin and Chinese culture – in English state schools.

"I want to develop Confucius classrooms and further develop Mandarin in comprehensives. There should be an opportunity for everyone to access Mandarin at a local school," he said. Chinese pupils have the best results of all ethnic groups in national curriculum tests at 11, with 86 percent reaching the required standard compared with 80 percent of white British children. The figures include

recent immigrants who do not have English as a first language.

Their success is carried through to GCSE level where 65.8 percent of Chinese-origin pupils obtain five A to C-grade passes including maths and English, compared with 44.3 percent for white British pupils.

"These are cultures that strongly respect and value the family and very strongly respect education," Knight said.

Confucius, who was born in 551 BC, championed the importance of study and respect for elders and claimed that strong family relationships were the key to a good society.

Governor weeps, apologizes for mine disaster

(Reuters) – The governor of the coal-rich northern province of Shanxi wept while apologizing for a mine explosion that killed 77 people, while an initial probe blamed negligence for the disaster.

Wang Jun, who was promoted to governor a few months ago after campaigning to reduce mine deaths as the head of the State Administration of Work Safety, broke down while apologizing to the families of victims, Chinese media reported Wednesday.

"The accident has resulted in a tremendously bad influence. We've let down the deceased miners and their families," the *China Daily* quoted him as saying.

Wang had held a conference about mine safety the day before the accident, when he told officials "we cannot weep anymore."

More than 400 miners were working underground at the time of this weekend's blast at the Tunlan mine, near Shanxi's capital, Taiyuan.

Official sacked for luxury jaunt

(AFP) – An official has been sacked for leading a delegation on a jaunt to Egypt and Dubai, where the group splurged on diamonds and stayed at top hotels, Chinese media said Tuesday.

An Internet blogger initially exposed Tan Rigui, the deputy party secretary of a district in the southern province of Guangdong, by posting a video online showing some of his government-funded "work trip," the *China Daily* said.

A government investigation then found that Tan led 13 officials from his Duanzhou district to Egypt on the two-week trip early in 2007, the paper reported.

"(They) spent most of their time visiting famous scenic spots, watching shows and buying luxury goods, such as African diamonds," it said.

The trip ended with a stay at the ultra-luxurious Burj Al-Arab in Dubai, which bills itself as the world's only seven-star hotel, the newspaper report said.

Those who travelled with Tan included officials from a number of district government departments, who have all been asked to repay the costs of the trip that add up to 450,000 yuan.

Beijing teen hot-wires bus, causes chaos

(AP) – A 13-year-old boy apparently hot-wired a public bus and took it on a joyride in downtown Beijing and crashed it into a dozen vehicles in a scene witnesses likened to a blockbuster movie, Chinese media reported Monday.

The middle-school student jumped into the driver's seat of city bus No. 404 while it was parked at a terminal, and sped off while the driver was in the bathroom, Xinhua news agency reported. Beijing Public Transport Holdings, which owns the bus, believes the boy started the bus without keys, Xinhua said.

No one was hurt and it was unclear if the boy had been taken into custody.

He zigzagged through Sunday morning traffic in Beijing's eastern Chaoyang District, first hitting a car and a minibus, Xinhua reported, citing the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

When the driver of the car got out to talk to him, the teen reversed and crashed the bus into 10 parked vehicles, sending one crashing through the front of a clinic, Xinhua said.

"It was like watching a blockbuster movie when I saw the bus crashing into cars like a bulldozer," Liu, a man who runs a shoe-repair stand, said.

Buying mission leaves for Europe

Commerce Minister Chen Deming left for Europe Tuesday to head a team of 300 charged with spending billions of dollars on European products, the government said.

The high-powered procurement team will visit Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Britain, according to a statement from the commerce ministry.

The widely anticipated mission could end up spending 15 billion yuan or "considerably" more, the *China Daily* reported, and officials hailed the trip as proof of Beijing's non-protectionist stance.

"The Chinese government's organization of the trade and investment mission to Europe comes as the world economy is facing recession," Gao Hucheng, vice minister of commerce, said.

"It shows China's determination to open up its market and push for the revival of the world economy by strengthening coop-

eration with other countries," he said in the ministry's statement.

Officials from food, textile, mining and health insurance organizations were part of the delegation, the statement said.

Commerce ministry spokesman Yao Jian said last week that the delegation would mainly buy technology and equipment.

The *China Daily* cited Yao as saying that the country's demand for European goods was growing as a result of a 4-trillion-yuan economic stimulus package that includes huge infrastructure projects.

"Europe has an obvious edge in providing us with the equipment we need," he said, according to the paper.

"Chen can take a positive message to the world. China, as a major trading power, has no interest in adopting protectionism," Song Hong, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences think-tank, was quoted as saying.

China has said it is "deeply concerned" about trade protectionism in other countries amid the global economic crisis, singling out the "Buy American" clause in the huge US economic stimulus package.

The clause requires the use of US iron, steel and manufactured goods in public works projects funded by the bill.

The European Union is China's largest trading partner, its most important source for technology imports and its largest export destination, while China is the EU's second-largest trading partner.

Bilateral trade rose by 19.5 percent to US \$ 425.6 billion dollars in 2008, with China holding a trade surplus of US \$ 160 billion, according to official Chinese data.

In January this year, bilateral trade was impacted by the crisis, declining 18.7 percent from the same month of 2008 to US \$ 28 billion, Xinhua said.

(Agencies)

P&G's domestic dominance challenged by local brands

By Huang Daohen

Procter & Gamble (P&G), the world's top maker of household products, may be challenged by local brands after years of dominance in the Chinese market according to recent Nielsen statistics.

Advertisements for P&G's daily-use products have vanished from the country's television broadcasts since February. In the economic downturn, consumers are turning to good quality and cheaper domestic products.

According to Nielsen, P&G shampoo products, which play an important role in the company's business in China, have been steadily losing market share, falling from a record high of 50 percent in 2006 to 45.5 percent by the end of last year.

In Shanghai, the market share of Head & Shoulders Shampoo fell from 22 percent in 2006 to 21 percent in 2007, and to 19.7 percent at the close of 2008. Rejoice's market share fell from nearly 22 percent at the beginning of 2007 to 13.1 percent in October 2008.

P&G's toothpastes and cosmetics have also dropped. In Shanghai, Olay's fell from 38.5 percent in January 2007 to 36 percent at the beginning of 2008, and 34.9 percent in October.



Daniela Riccardi, president of P&G China, was optimistic about the Chinese market despite economic downturn.

CFP Photo

Emerging domestic brands are rising to challenge the long-time champion. The market share of the Guangdong-based Bawang Shampoo rose from 3.5 percent in 2006 to 5.7 percent in 2007 and 7.8 percent by the end of last year.

This may be a good sign for smaller local brands, Zhao Xiao, economics professor with the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said. "They can treat

the global financial crisis as an opportunity to grab market share."

Statistics show that P&G's TV advertising in China has also declined year by year. In 2006 P&G's total advertising accounted for 90 percent of total daily-use product advertisements, 10 times that of the next biggest advertiser. But in 2007, P&G's advertising fell to 70 percent, and to 50 percent in 2008.

Market watch

Online shopping sales volume breaks 100-billion-yuan mark

By Jin Zhu

The annual online trade volume last year reached a record high of 120 billion yuan, up 128.5 percent from 2007 according to a new report by iResearch Consulting Company, a domestic polling organization, and Taobao.com.

The data came from the "2008 China Online Shopping Research Report," which was based on a nationwide survey of 100,000 Internet users interviewed through 84 major Web sites.

The report shows that the five locations with the most online trade are Shanghai, Guangdong, Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces, and Beijing.

"Obviously, E-business in big cities has become a vital part of the retail chain. More notably is that for the second and third tier cities, such as in Shandong and Jiangsu

provinces, online shopping has become a major business. The report shows more than 70 percent of Taobao.com users come from those areas," Zhang Yanping, an iResearch consultant, said.

As the fifth biggest online shopper in China, Beijing's trade volume was 10.8 billion yuan last year. More men shopped online than women, who were 45 percent of shoppers. For male shoppers, electronic products were their main purchases, the report said.

"Netizens in large cities, such as Shanghai and Beijing prefer business-to-consumer shopping. Most Web retailers focus on specific industries, such as IT products, books and media or presents and flowers," Zhang said.

Despite living nearby several big shopping malls, Liu Ran, a 26-year-old Beijing resident, said she prefers shopping online.

"I purchase things online almost every month. The variety, lower price and convenience are my main considerations," Liu said.

"Since I always tend to buy famous brands, shopping online means more quality assurance compared to the consumer market," she said.

Taobao.com leads online sales with 82.2 percent of the market, followed by PAIPAI.com and eachnet.com, which control 9.9 percent and 7.9 percent respectively, the report said.

"The annual trade volume on Taobao.com reached 99.96 billion yuan last year, which was an increase of 57 percent," Zhang Yanping said.

The report predicts online sales will gain momentum despite the global financial crisis.

Online recruiting giants faces grim outlook

By Venus Lee

ChinaHR.com, a leading headhunting portal, registered a loss of 175 million yuan last year according to its latest financial report.

This was the first financial report published by US-based online recruitment giant Monster.com after it acquired ChinaHR.com last year. The report shows that in the first quarter after the acquisition, October 8 to December 31, 2008, the Web site lost 49 million. Its yearly losses totaled 175 million, up from 143 million in 2007.

ChinaHR was not the only recruitment company to post a loss. Zhaopin.com, ranked third among China's top three recruitment portals, has been losing money since 2007 according to insiders. However, the company would not comment. "We are not a listed company yet, so we will not provide that data to the public," Li Peihan, a Zhaoping.com spokeswoman, said.

51job.com, ranked first among domestic online recruitment Web sites, also reported a loss of up to 31 percent in the third quarter, with a profit ratio of only 10 percent - its lowest since 2005. "51job.com is still profitable, but our profit margins have slipped," Wang Jian, the company spokesman, said.

According to iResearch, the total revenue of China's Internet recruitment market last year was 1.1 billion, up 13.6 percent from 970 million in 2007. Despite the increase, overall growth slowed.

"Competition between Internet recruitment portals is becoming intense; a price war led to the loss in profits, and this trend will continue. However, the companies continue to invest huge resources in marketing," Jiang Lixin, an analyst at iResearch, said.

ChinaHR.com and Zhaopin.com were listed among the top 50 advertisers in China's Internet industry last year. The two spent 300 million and 270 million yuan on advertising, respectively.

The financial crisis began to hit online recruiters in the third quarter. "Online recruitment portals earn much of their income from employers who propped up the services, but the current global financial crunch has led many companies to pull out. Those who are still using online recruitment are paying less for the online job-hunting service," Jiang said.

China's online recruitment market is highly concentrated, with 51job.com, ChinaHR.com and zhaopin.com accounting for 70 percent of the market. US-based Monster.com formed an alliance with ChinaHR.com, and Recruit.com from Japan bought stakes from 51job.

Airbus expects no China plane orders

Airbus SAS, which had been in talks about an order for as many as 200 planes, does not expect to sign any deals in the country this year, according to two executives at the planemaker.

The company may still win agreements for deals to be completed when the market recovers, one of the people said. The two executives declined to be identified as they aren't authorized to reveal the information.

Airbus' plans to sign its fourth Chinese order for more than 150 planes since 2005 have been delayed since it opened an aircraft-assembly factory in Tianjin last year to boost its presence in the country. Worldwide, the planemaker's and Boeing's orders and deliveries are tumbling as airlines struggle for credit and passengers curb their flights.

For Airbus, "China is a killer part of their strategy outside Europe," said Doug McVitie, managing director of Dinan, France-based Arran Aerospace, a consulting company.

(Agencies)

Netizen investigation public surveillance or political show?

By Wang Yu

Disappointed netizens have turned their anger on members of the investigative committee of the "duo maomao" case in Yunnan Province. The committee's report covers every detail about the investigation on the victim's death – apart from the truth, netizens said.

Li Qiaoming, 24, reportedly died of brain injuries after he was arrested for illegally cutting down trees. According to an early police statement, Li hit his head on a doorframe after he was kicked by other detainees while playing "hide-and-seek" beyond the watch jail guards on February 8. Five days later, Li died in the hospital.

Netizens quickly disputed the explanation. "Duo maomao," Chinese for hide-and-seek, has become a popular catch phrase for the populace, adding pressure to the local government to resolve the case.

Little did netizens know that the case would be ground-breaking. On February 19, the information department of Yunnan Province issued a notice calling for netizens to join the ongoing investigation. Within one day, a group consisting of five netizens, three journalists, four public security bureau (PSB) officials and prosecutor's office staff, two office workers and a college student, set off for the Jinning Detention House where Li died.

The one-day investigation could not be described as successful. Though the investigative committee met with the local police and visited the detention house, leaders of the group said they could not access information at the heart of the case, such as the surveillance video which does "not exist," according to Yan Guodong, vice director of the local PSB.

Wu Hao, the vice minister of Yunnan's propaganda department has been put on the spot. He was the one who persuaded the local government to allow netizens to join the investigation, and has been blamed as the director of the "political show."

Though Wu admitted that the decision was hastily made, he said none of the netizens in the investigative committee, especially those who work for the press, are controlled by the government. He also released the record of an online chat with the local press, in which they discussed plans to bring netizens into the investigation.



Journalists gather outside Building No. 9 of the Puning County jail, where a 24-year-old inmate died under suspiciously circumstance.
IC Photo

Expert View

Was the investigation illegal?

People held in a detention house receive convictions or sentences of no less than a year. Usually, they are not allowed contact with the outside world. According to law, only officers of the national security department, the people's procuratorate or the court can enter the detention house, with permission,

for an arraignment.

So it is unbelievable that more than 10 ordinary citizens were included in this investigation. Such people are not authorized by the law to enter a detention house; even detainees' lawyers have to go through a complex process to get in. What the investigative committee did broke the law.

— Zhu Guangjia, lawyer

Comment

A move that reflects an open mind

This demonstrates openness of information and a move towards greater transparency, and that the Government is becoming increasingly open-minded. I also think the government wanted to put on a show, but everyone does the same thing in this age, and the government has a right to protect its image.

— Bian Min, newspaper editor and member of the investigative committee
PR campaign backfired

My opinion is that the information department tried to prevent a public opinion bomb from exploding, but the

move challenged the credibility of the police and judiciary.

— Oiwan Lam, freelance researcher, translator and editor

Not everything can really be open to the public

I think none of the netizens can find out the truth behind the death. They cannot get anywhere near the core of the case because they are not authorized by law. Sometimes the government has to hide the truth for political stability, especially events that can hurt its image. Still, it was a good move to let citizens be involved in such a social matter.

— Su Yi, writer

Propaganda piece that developed claws

An off-the-cuff critical comment by a newspaper sub-editor about a fawning propaganda article made its way into one of China's leading newspapers this week, causing red faces among state media controllers and highlighting the frustrations faced by journalists working under strict censorship.

The report was a standard propaganda piece about a government leader in the southern city of Shenzhen making dumplings to celebrate the Chinese New Year with a group of migrant workers.

It was being edited to appear in the *Southern Metropolis Daily*, one of the nation's most outspoken newspapers.

"Since they have never dined with such a senior-level leader before, all the migrant workers were all very excited to see such a great leader," ran the copy filed by an enthusiastic young reporter at the newspaper, which is regularly been in the firing line for its critical stance.

The story ran alongside a picture of a happy migrant worker, who appeared suitably delighted at the prospect of making dumplings with a top cadre.

This was all a bit much for one sub-editor reading the article, who wrote in the comment: "Such ass-kissing!" – not for publication, but as a private expression of disgust.

However, subsequent editing led to the phrase being incorporated into the final print edition. The words that finally appeared read: "Such ass-kissing makes me excited," a phrase that is now making its grounds in cyberspace.

Subsequent reports in the media show that the next person in the production process noticed the offending remarks, but was not given enough guidance on how to deal with them, so they appeared in print.

"Only the *Southern Metropolis Daily* tells the truth, even if it's by accident," ran one comment, while another said that only this newspaper dared to tell the truth.

Other comments said the sub-editors should lose their jobs. And one simply said: "I love *Southern Metropolis Daily*."

As far as the journalists in question are concerned, the repercussions so far appear to have been relatively mild. One, Yuan Fang, was fined around 1,000 yuan for adding the words, while another, Shen Huawei, was fined 500 yuan for not noticing them.

(By Huang Daohen)

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Stories of the city's expats

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US author donates book profits to leukemia patient

By Zhang Dongya

Douglas Dimick, from the US, will release his first book on business and investment in China next month, and he has decided to donate part of its profits to a young Chinese leukemia patient. Dimick hopes the move will bring in more help to children suffering such diseases.

Wuhan as a starting point

Dimick, 50, has been living and working in China since 2006. His first stop was Wuhan, a city whose name was new to him. Before he headed for China, he asked a retired US air force general familiar with the country whether he should go to Beijing or Shanghai. The general recommended "Wuhan."

"He said Beijing was like Washington DC, while Shanghai was like New York City, while Wuhan was a place where I could better understand China and more quickly learn the Chinese way of thinking. And he was right," Dimick said, "Wuhan is a place where you can clearly see the new and the old China."

During his two years in the city, Dimick said locals treated him like family, and he found a lot of work. He taught English in several schools, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) School at Wuhan University. He later became a foreign expert in technology and economics at Wuhan Engineering Corporation and AmShell Company in Hubei Province, doing consulting and training. He also conducted research on business and investment in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau.

Book born in Beijing

Dimick came to Beijing last September to do consulting work with Chinese energy companies, and to work on his first book. The *Art of Conversion*, based on his two-year research in business and investment, will be published by Wuhan University Press in both Chinese and English. The latter edition was translated by two pro-



Douglas Dimick with Du Pan

Photo provided by Du Chunlan

fessors at Wuhan University.

The book evaluates business and investment opportunities in China. The idea is to provide information both for businesses inbound, coming into China, and outbound, Chinese compa-

nies entering foreign markets, Dimick said. "It is designed to help Chinese companies become more competitive and to hedge their operations and investments both in China and in foreign markets," the author told

Beijing Today.

Work on the book however led him to conclude that the atmosphere here for investment and finance was still immature, and he offers strategies to prepare for entering the Chinese market.

Dimick has also been working on an education program that aims to improve Chinese people's proficiency in English. He believes the program can contribute toward improving systems in China, including the legal and investment system.

Dedication to leukemia patient

On New Year's Day 2009, Dimick met Du Pan, a girl from rural Hubei Province who was diagnosed with leukemia last year. The 12-year-old, who came to Beijing for treatment, moved the people around her with her optimism.

She reminded Dimick of Derek, his nanny's grandson, who died of the cancer at age 13 three decades ago. "Derek to me was almost a son. When I met Du, I felt Derek's spirit shining from her eyes. I decided to dedicate the book to her and other similarly brave children," Dimick said in the book's foreword.

He is donating 10 percent of the book's profits to Du's treatment, while the publishing house will give her 1 yuan from each book sold.

"I know the book is not going to make much money, but if it will bring more attention to her plight, maybe someone who has better means will step in," Dimick said.

After chemotherapy at the Beijing 301 Hospital, doctors recommended a bone marrow transplant for Du. The family has since found a donor, and if they have adequate funds, the operation is expected to take place on March 12.

Du's transplant will cost approximately 300,000 yuan; so far her family has raised 180,000 yuan. People who want to help Du can write to duchunlan2005@hotmail.com.

Black paper failed to turned into bucks

By Zheng Lu

Last Friday, a South Korean citizen visiting Beijing lost about a hundred million yuan in a scam, officials at the Beijing Public Security Bureau (PSB) said.

The trouble began last week when Choi, the victim, received an email from a person who identified himself as the president of a bank in Africa. The email said the unclaimed assets of a man who died in an air crash, worth US \$29 million (198 million yuan), could be turned over to Choi if he pays US \$7,500 in commission charges. Choi accepted the terms and agreed to meet with the estate's representatives, a diplomat and a bank official in China.

On February 1, Choi met with two men at a Chaoyang hotel who introduced themselves as the representatives. They said the cash equivalent of the inheritance was so large they had to dye the bills black so they could evade Chinese customs, but that the color would wash off. Choi was convinced when the men rubbed some liquid onto a black sheet of paper, which revealed a US \$100 bill. But they were selling the "special" liquid to him for an additional 817,000 yuan.

After paying the commission charge and the consignment fee that added up to US \$7,900, Choi planned to "examine the goods" the next morning. In days that followed, Choi transferred 817,000 yuan in exchange, got several chests of "black bills." When Choi returned to South Korea with the goods, he discovered that the liquid no longer worked. He immediately informed the Beijing PSB and returned to the town last Thursday to help with the investigation.

The police are looking into the case. This is the first report of a foreigner being victimized by such a scheme, Liu Jiwei, an official at the PSB's Exit and Entry Administration Division, said. Four similar cases have been reported since the Olympics; all victims were Chinese residents, and all suspects were foreigners, he said.

Foreigners should be aware of such scams, Liu said. "Don't believe that 'black paper can be turned into bills,' or any message from strangers that say you could 'inherit a fortune.'" People who come across such schemes should immediately inform the police, he said.

Discovery Networks eye on Chinese filmmakers

By He Jianwei

Young Chinese directors have unique access to China, an edge they have been taking advantage of through films that show the country through their eyes, said a Discovery Networks executive at a ceremony Tuesday announcing the winners of "Eye on China: Visionary Filmmakers."

Discovery has been commissioning young Chinese filmmakers to produce documentaries since 2002, and they have exhibited strength in "observational storytelling," Vikram Channa, vice president in charge of content at Discovery Networks Asia-Pacific,

said at the ceremony. "Chinese directors make documentaries in a classic way. They may take one or more years to follow the story."

Chinese documentarians however do not know how to make films for foreign audiences because "they've been producing documentaries for local audiences for a long time," Channa said. Through its advanced production structure, Discovery aims to help them understand the international market.

China's rapid modernization is very attractive to Discovery. Last year, for instance, the company worked with domestic television groups to produce documentaries



Vikram Channa announcing the winners at the ceremony.

Photo provided by Discovery Networks

on the Bird's Nest, the National Center for the Performing Arts and the Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

"We want to archive what is happening in this country in the 21st century, including the environment, engineering and history. We hope the works will become a treasure for the generation in 10 to 20 years," Channa said. Documentary-filmmaking is an ideal platform for this because it cuts across cultural boundaries.

Although an increasing number of Chinese directors have been interested in doing documentaries on China in recent years, not all compelling stories

make it to Discovery Channel. "We choose workable stories and reliable projects," Channa said. Finishing an ambitious documentary is a big challenge for filmmakers.

"Eye on China: Visionary Filmmakers," which was launched in December 2008, challenged filmmakers to create pieces based on true stories that portray the extraordinary changes China has gone through in the last 30 years.

This type of project began in Europe, then made its way to Asia. "We have set up the same model in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and we'll also be in Vietnam," Channa said.

French business school enters China market

By Han Manman

Ceram Business School, a leading European business school, has established its presence in the country with the opening of its first China center in Suzhou this week.

Based in southern France, Ceram is the latest international business school to enter the Chinese market.

Alice Guilhon, president of Ceram, said their school in Suzhou targets foreigners both in China and abroad, who are inter-

ested in understanding the Chinese market or doing business in the country.

She said Ceram plans to develop a local version of its executive education program, one adapted to the needs of local firms; to open a masters program in management, a bachelors and masters in science program; and to offer students from their two French campuses an opportunity to study in China.

In the past two years, an increasing number of foreigners have

chosen to take up business programs, such as an MBA, in China.

Speaking about this new trend, Guilhon said China has captured the world's attention with its rapid economic development, and that the country's double-digit growth in gross domestic product last year is proof of ongoing change.

"More and more Westerners want to study in China so they can look for business opportunities here after graduation," she said, adding that Ceram can provide

its students at least four months' internship at Chinese firms in cities like Suzhou, Shanghai and Beijing. "Studying business in China can also help them find a good job."

Last week, 80 French students in Suzhou started their courses in intensive Mandarin, multicultural management and socioeconomics.

Guilhon said that learning China's culture and traditions by studying here is also an effective way to understand the emerging

global superpower, apart from rubbing shoulders with its business elite.

Ceram is run by the French Riviera Chamber of Commerce. Under its partnership with the chamber and the Municipality of Suzhou, Ceram aims to play a role in the development of relations between businesses in Suzhou and southern France. A project to create a Suzhou-based research center for economic intelligence aimed at Chinese companies is also a feature of the partnership.

Chile's bigger dreams in the Chinese wine market

By Annie Wei

It is no secret in China's wine industry that big local companies import wine, then bottle them up under their label because the country's own production cannot meet the growing demand.

Chile, a leading wine exporter to China, has higher ambitions still. "There are already 88 different brands of Chilean wine sold in China, and the first made-in-China Chilean wine is starting production later this year," Mario Artaza, trade representative at the Embassy of Chile, said.

Data from the Chinese customs show that Chilean wine imported in huge volumes has seen a 15 percent growth in 2008 compared to 2007, while bottled wine has had 70 percent growth and sparkling wine 140 percent in the same period.

In 2008, China became the South American nation's No 1 trading partner, with trade amounting to US \$17 billion (116 billion yuan). "This is a feat for a partnership which a decade ago was a quarter of that sum," Artaza said.

China ranks No 8 among countries to which Chile exports wine. This year, Chile's Wine and Culture Year in China, the Latin American country aims to export US \$1.2 billion worth of wine, particularly to places like the UK, the US, Canada, Japan, South Korea and European countries.

Chile and China signed a free trade agreement (FTA) in 2006, after which Chilean businesspeople became eager to invest here. "Chile is a country rich in resources like copper, iron ore, molybdenum and fruits like grape, cherry and kiwi. Among New World wines, Chilean wine is known for its quality, and we have positive experiences to share in this field," Artaza said.

The year that China and Chile signed an FTA, Andronico Luksic, vice president of the Banco de Chile, the first Latin American bank to set up an office in Beijing, teamed up with Johnny Chan, president of the Hong Kong wine club, to set up a joint venture in



Mario Artaza shows Chile's wine.

Photo by Annie Wei

Xinjiang Province.

"It's a wine for the Chinese taste, for the growing, up-and-coming middle class, who want to start out with local wines before moving on to higher classes of wine," Artaza said.

Other foreign investors entered the Chinese wine market about 10 years ago. Foreign grocery stores and supermarkets here and in Shanghai offer a wide variety of wine, but their Chinese counterparts usually only have brands like Great Wall or Dragon Seal.

At the Chilean Embassy, Artaza showed off two bottles of 1421 brand wine, a name that comes from the book 1421: The Year China Discovered America. The book paints a bold portrait of Zheng He, a eunuch admiral in the Ming Dynasty, who led fleets to Africa, India and Latin America.

"1421 does not aim to be a wine for the public," the trade representative said. "It does not aim to be a cheap brand, but one known for the best quality at that price." A bottle costs about 70 yuan, more affordable for the average Chinese office worker than other imported wine that go for at least 140 yuan.

Artaza said that a strategy going to be taken by Chilean companies is to penetrate smaller urban areas like Tianjin, since consumers in metropolises like Shanghai or Beijing are more attracted to expensive European wines.

He said that 1421, which is available in Asia in such hotels as the Crowne Plaza and the Shangri-La, aims to have a larger presence in 2009, especially in China.

100 years since the first international anti-drug meeting



China celebrates today and tomorrow the centenary of the International Opium Commission conference, the first international anti-drug meeting convened in February 1909.

Around 16 government delegations, the UN office on drug and crime, as well as representatives from the International Narcotics Control Board, are participating in the event.

The meeting in 1909 led to the signing of the International Opium Convention at the Hague in 1912, the first international drug control treaty.

(By Han Manman)

IC Photo

British Council tests English-teaching site's online voice system

By Jackie Zhang

It has been years since the tide of learning English appeared in China, which resulted in an increasing number of students preferring to study abroad, and more people wanting to work for foreign companies.

As the educational and cultural arm of the British Embassy, the British Council in China has been providing English-teaching services to the Chinese people for several years. The council launched a new voice system, on its free English education Web site englishonline.org.cn, which enables Chinese people to communicate online with native English speakers.

The test for the new voice system started a month ago and will finish at the end of next month. "Because it is just a test of the new course, we only recruited 3,000 people for the course," Wang Yin from the council's Beijing office said. The participants include employees of foreign companies in Beijing, university students and registered members of the council's English Online site.

Students first study with the help of a textbook before moving on to material online. When they finish answering questions on the first web page, they click on a button which leads them to the next step - online communica-

tion, Wang said. "The British Council's English teachers will receive the students' request and call them through the online voice system," she said.

The conversation lasts 15 to 20 minutes. "Students can record the exchange and listen to it again later to review what they learned," Wang said.

The service is free and available 24 hours a day. "The council has not yet decided whether it will charge for the course" once it is offered to the public, Wang said. "The chance of being accepted to the new course is bigger for registered members of our English-teaching Web site," she added.

Dutchman makes Gouda cheese in Shanxi countryside

By Annie Wei

Shoppers who walk along the dairy section of Jenny Lou's grocery store at Chaoyang Park west gate will be confronted by an assortment of 30 to 40 cheeses.

Among them is Yellow Valley, a brand manufactured in Yangqu County, Shanxi Province by a Dutchman named Marc de Ruiter.

Almost a year ago, the expat group Beijing Cheese Society held a cheese and wine tasting event featuring Yellow Valley. Jim Boyce, an American food and wine blogger in town, wrote that he, "like many other people, was surprised to learn they were domestically made. The cheese is tasty and fresh, and flavors include something plain, herb, garlic and onion."

Yellow Valley is 100 percent natural and organic Gouda, a mild Dutch cheese similar to Edam but more fatty. De Ruiter pasteurizes it without using any artificial ingredients, coloring or additives.

"like many other people, (I) was surprised to learn they were domestically made. The cheese is tasty and fresh, and flavors include plain, herb, garlic and onion."

At 81.60 yuan for 400 grams, it is more expensive than many other brands at Jenny Lou's. What works in its favor is being locally made: It is fresher than imported cheeses, which are frozen or refrigerated on their journey to China.

De Ruiter's love story with cheese has been broadcast on the country's biggest television channel, CCTV-7, which focuses on agricultural issues. Because of his interest in China and his dreams of helping farmers in developing countries, de Ruiter brought his wife and two children to China 11 years ago.

With their expanding expat communities, cities like Beijing and Shanghai quickly become a second home to foreigners. But it is a different story in the countryside, where de Ruiter and his family have chosen to live; there are no big restaurants, nightclubs or shops that sell Western goods. Locals do not speak Mandarin, but a dialect that few Chinese people know.

When asked about life in Yangqu, de Ruiter, said in an email message to *Beijing Today*, "It is tough to live where we are, but we have to keep on going."

When Chinese and foreign friends found out the de Ruiter family planned to move to Yangqu, they tried to dissuade the family. But the Dutchman stood firm. "If we want to see Chinese farmers prosper, we have to go help the poorest areas. The poorer the area, the less they receive government support and help from others. The farmers here need our support, not just by providing them with better income, but also encouragement in hard times," he said.



Marc de Ruiter working in his cheese factory

Photos provided by Marc de Ruiter

Running a small dairy business

Beijing Today, in an email exchange with Marc de Ruiter, talked to him about his dairy business and his dream of helping local farmers in light of the melamine "milk scandal" and the global economic downturn.

BJ Today: Can you tell me more about how you started your business. An article quoted you as saying, "We thought of a way to supplement their (small-scale farmers) income and that's when we started Yellow Valley Cheese." And how does your business supplement their income?

De Ruiter: We started the business by first working on a pilot project to make cheese and test the market. After that, we decided to set up a company so we could legally sell the cheese.

We pay farmers milk prices that are around 20 percent higher than the average market price. Therefore, farmers earn around 300 to 900 yuan more per month during the milk season.

BJ Today: Your cheese was successfully manufactured in 2003. You set up the company in 2006 and waited until November 2007 for a license. Why the long process?

De Ruiter: Setting up a food-processing company requires a lot of paperwork and systems that have to be set in place. We registered in 2006, but first had to build a production facility, which took until February 2007. We got our production license in November 2007 and started marketing our cheese a month later.

BJ Today: I heard that your cheese goes through rigorous quality control. Is the process very troublesome?

De Ruiter: Well, it is troublesome, but necessary in China. However, we've never had any quality problems.

BJ Today: Is quality control expensive for a small business like yours?

De Ruiter: Yes. I think that the government does not do enough to support small dairy businesses like ours. We have had no support after the melamine crisis although we are a safe and good company. It was the big companies that caused a lot of trouble, but the small companies suffered the most from it. Big does not mean safe; small does not mean unsafe. We lost five months of sales due to the melamine crisis. The



Yellow Valley Cheese works with local farmers directly, to help them improve their income.

government has introduced more costs to our enterprise without giving any support.

BJ Today: I heard your business is doing pretty well in Beijing, with supermarkets that target expats selling your products. What are the difficulties of selling cheese in Chinese cities?

De Ruiter: We are marketing a brand-name cheese, not just cheese. A lot of Chinese people, as well as expats, do not understand high-quality natural cheese. We get orders from all over China because of our superior flavor. Other shops we want to enter, however, only look at our price and will not stock our cheese. By doing this, they rob the customers of a superior product.

BJ Today: Do you think it is difficult to penetrate big supermarket chains like Carrefour and Tesco?

De Ruiter: Very difficult. The most difficult part is getting into big supermarkets. They do not like to work with smaller suppliers and do not understand good quality cheese. They primarily look at the price. We cannot compete on price as we are a specialist cheese-maker.

BJ Today: I remember you once said that the profit from Yellow Valley Cheese will be used toward new ventures, new projects.

De Ruiter: So far, we have not been profitable, primarily due to the melamine crisis. Therefore, we have not been able to set up new projects. But we have donated products to some charities and the earthquake relief. We hope that 2009 will see us get to a sustainable level.

Where to find Yellow Valley Cheese:

South German Bakery

Where: B5-C5, Lucky Street, 29 Zhaoying Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5867 0201

Euro Bakery

Where: 8 Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang District (west of the Western Academy of Beijing's main entrance)
Tel: 8470 2874 (home delivery available)

Pekotan Butcher and Deli

Where: 21-22, Building 12, Xincheng Guoji, 6 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6533 6605

Sanyuanli Food Market

(Stall No 29: Sokey's Western Food Ingredients)
Where: Shunyuan Jie, Dong Sanhuan, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8454 5086 (home delivery available)

Mrs Shanen's

Where: 5 Kaifa Jie, Xibaixinzhuang, Shunyi District (1 minute drive from the International School of Beijing)
Tel: 8046 4301

Jenny Lou's (almost all stores in town)



Gouda cheese made in China

Knowledge to make the life of foreign students easier

11

News u can use



PSB officials at a legal information seminar at the Beijing Language and Culture University

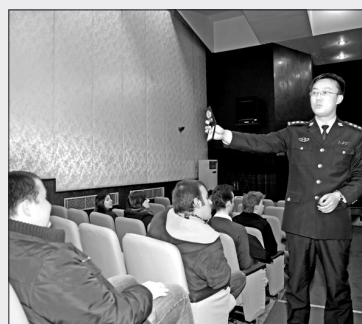
By Zheng Lu

"Can you see it clearly? This is my work ID," said Wu Hao, a policeman, holding up the card to an audience of foreign students. "Is it real?" a Korean student said in Chinese, and the hall full of people broke out in laughter. Wu, who was speaking at a seminar Wednesday at the Beijing Language and Culture University, warned students there were people who posed as police officers. The key is to ask for their ID and to see if it is genuine, he said.

Over 200 foreign students from 17 countries attended the talk organized by the Beijing Public Security Bureau's (PSB) Administration Division of Exit and Entry, which aims to help newly arrived foreigners understand government regulations and ease into life here.

The seminar is done in English, Russian, Korean and Japanese, and conducted in other universities including the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Aerospace and the University of International Business and Economics. The first such talk was held more than a decade ago, and has since been attended by more than 100,000 students from over a hundred countries.

A PSB official said that since the Beijing Olympics, more foreigners have applied to study in China. Recently however, foreign students have become embroiled in public security cases, causing physical injury and property damage. Below are some noteworthy regulations that the PSB emphasizes.



Policeman Wu Hao shows foreign students what a real police ID is like.

Photos provided by Beijing PSB



To smooth students' visa work, the Exit and Entry Bureau sets up a visa channel for foreign students as the new school semester starts.

Passport and Visa

A passport must be carried by its owner, and should not be lent to others. For renewal of a passport, students should first report to their school's foreign student office, then go through formalities at the Exit and Entry Administration.

In case a passport is lost, the owner should immediately inform the PSB in charge of the area. The school should also be informed, then the person should go to the Exit and Entry Administration to get a document called Confirmation of Lost Passport. This is needed so that a foreigner can apply for a new passport at his or her embassy or consulate.

Students who stay more than six months should apply for an X (student) visa; those who stay less than six months should get an F (business) visa. A student who changes his or her passport, home address, school or city of residence should go to the Exit and Entry Administration to report the changes within 10 days.

The PSB stresses the importance of taking note of the expiration date of one's visa, because a person will be fined 500 yuan for each extra day of stay or detained for "unlawful presence" in the country. Last November, a student from the Republic of Liberia discovered that his visa was 80 days overdue; a week later, he was deported after being investigated and detained.

Reminders for daily living

Keeping a pet

Dogs brought by foreigners from abroad or bought in the country should be registered at the PSB within 30 days. Those who live on campus are not allowed to keep pets, according to school regulations.

Getting a part-time job

According to the Law on the Entry and Exit of Aliens, foreign students are not allowed to obtain employment or engage in business activities during their period of study. But they can take part-time jobs in accordance with their school's regulations.

Taking a taxi

Individuals are responsible for taking

care of their personal belongings when they take a taxi. The police suggest keeping the taxi receipt for future reference. For safety, people should not take heiche or vehicles that ferry passengers without a proper business license.

Travelling within China

Foreigners with a valid visa or residence permit can travel to any region that is open to foreigners. For travel to restricted areas, foreigners need to apply for a permit from the PSB.

Unlawful activities will be punished

Last November, two Mongolians hit a Chinese resident during a quarrel and broke his nose. The Mongolians were kept in custody, according to the Law on Administrative Penalties for Public Security.

At the end of last year, three Koreans were caught stealing motorcycles. The Exit and Entry Administration cancelled their residence permits after their university expelled them. The police said that foreigners who steal money or belongings will be placed in criminal detention.

Trouble caused by drunken foreigners has become common. A few days before Christmas last year, a Russian student damaged two cars parked at a bar street in Chaoyang District. He was asked to pay 19,000 yuan as compensation.

The police warned that all unlawful activities, including prostitution and buying or selling illegal drugs will be severely punished.

Advice from the police

- Be careful of thieves. Don't count your money or unnecessarily fiddle with your possessions in public.

- If a robber grabs your bag, it is best to let the person take it. Physical injury will be minimized if you don't resist or retaliate.

- It is better not to hang gadgets such as mobile phones, MP3 players or cameras around the waist.

- Don't check out an apartment for rent on your own. A friend or real estate you trust

should accompany you.

- Beware of fraudulent mobile phone text messages. Don't believe stories about winning a prize in exchange for a transaction fee, or depositing money to a bank account sent by unknown phone numbers.

- Beware of online fraud. Last year, two foreign students ended up buying fake air tickets on the Internet and lost 13,000 yuan.

- Beware of scams. Do not be tempted to believe that "black paper" can be turned into bank notes using a "special liquid."

- Be cautious when you come across someone claiming to be a policeman who asks to see your passport. Real police officers will show their work ID before conducting any checks. The ID contains a head shot, and is in a black leather holder with a police badge on it.

- Beijing's weather is dry, so fires are always a hazard. You are advised not to smoke lying in bed or use shoddy electrical appliances.

- In the foreign student office of colleges, students can ask for a card with the address of the Exit and Entry Administration, which can be shown to taxi drivers.

Useful addresses and telephone numbers

Administration Division of Exit and Entry of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau

Where: 2 Dong Dajie, Andingmen, Dongcheng District

Open: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (Monday to Saturday, except public holidays)

Tel: 8402 0101

Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau

Where: 10 Dezheng Lu, Haidian District

Open: 8:30-11:00am (Monday to Friday, except public holidays)

Tel: 8240 3684

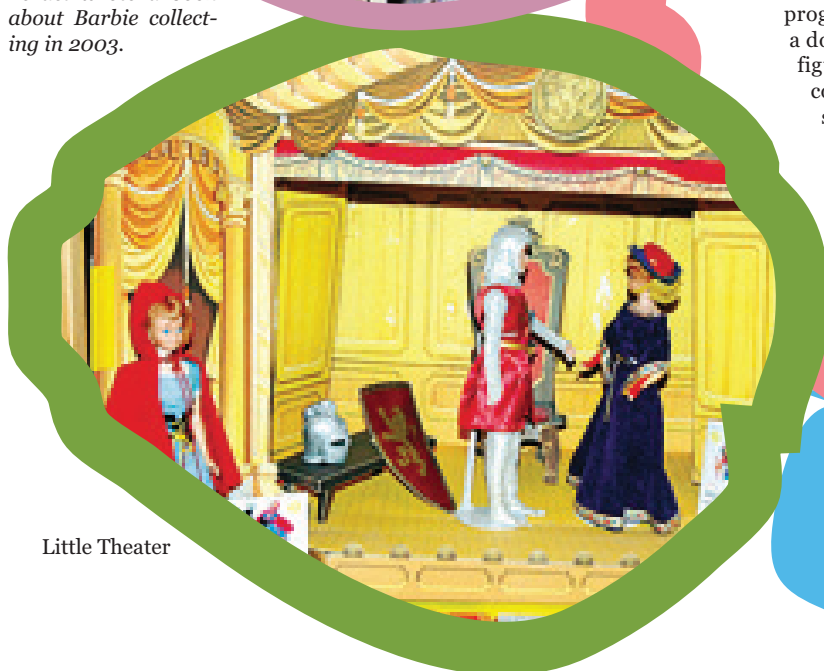
The heart of the Barbie collector



Original Barbie dolls and friends from 1959 thru 1964, still in their original boxes.



Teruel wrote a book about Barbie collecting in 2003.



Little Theater

Half-century of Barbie

Every Barbie doll is valuable as far as Teruel is concerned. He has spent 20 years collecting Barbies. That the doll can be a role model for so many young girls is more precious than even the most dainty handbag, he says.

As a native of San Francisco, Teruel graduated with a degree in visual design from the San Francisco campus of the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM). While attending FIDM, he was introduced to dolls when a fellow classmate brought a "Number Three Ponytail Vintage Barbie Doll" to class to use as a fashion mannequin.

"When I saw the doll, I was fascinated by her features and style, and I was hooked since then," Teruel said. "From the very beginning, my main focus was the ones made in 1959 through the late 1960s. I found they were much more stylized, nostalgic and very well made, and most were made in Japan."

The doll captured Teruel's interest and he was soon on a mission to find out more about this intriguing doll. He discovered the "Barbie Hall of Fame" museum in Palo Alto, California and learned more about Barbie, becoming good friends with owner and curator Evelyn Burkhalter in the process.

"It was an important experience for me. At the moment, I concentrate my collection on vintage dolls, vintage reproductions and the designer series, since Barbies have been dressed by many famous designers like Versace, Armani, Baby Phat, Badgely Mischa and Anna Sui," Teruel said.

The Barbie doll was introduced to the world in 1959 by Ruth Handler, one of the founders of Mattel Toys, who invented her for her daughter. However, Teruel says the 1990s was when Barbie-collecting began. Mattel began to produce dolls intended for adult collectors who appreciated the quality, concepts and focus on high fashion.

But more notable than fashion alone, the doll has chronicled progress in women's rights. "At the beginning, Barbie was just a doll that looked like it was designed for a man, with a good figure and beautiful dress. And now, the designs of Barbie cover many occupations women are involved in: model, movie star, singer, doctor, engineer and astronaut. Through Barbie, people, especially young girls, can feel that they can be anything they want to be," he said.

Not for profit, for love

Teruel has more than 1,500 Barbie dolls, and among them, antique Barbie is his favorite.

Barbies are divided into several series based on their design, shape and background: qualification, age and descent determines the doll's collectable value.

Descent refers to from which designer the doll is descended.

Dolls crafted by a famous stylist are worth

the most. Over the past 50 years, Barbie has been dressed by many famous designers whose dolls fetch a high price on the auction market.

"In the pre-party for Barbie's birthday on February, a Barbie doll with a wedding dress designed by Wang Weiwei sold for US \$15,000 (103,000 yuan)," Teruel said.

However, there is no guarantee that will one day be a sought-after collectible. In fact, speaking, the first doll in a new series, an unopened box is the most valuable. For example, the original Barbie, which retailed for US \$3, resold for US \$5,000," he said.

"But not all the dolls can become models. A doll of Scarlett from *Gone with the Wind* sold for \$75 and eventually vanished from the market."

Although he has many expensive Barbies, Teruel is interested in their nostalgic value.

He said his dolls are out of the boxes where they can be viewed to see how they have changed through the years.

"The best way to collect something is to value and forget about its limited collectible value because we love them, and not to resell them. It is better to have something than spending so much money on something that will eventually go away, collect dust and go unappreciated."

The collector's favorite

After he graduated from FIDM, Teruel worked as a district manager for Silverstone Import & Export in Christmas collectibles and decorative items. In his eight years with Silverstone, he traded with many other Barbie collectors.

When he left Silverstone, Teruel opened a shop in San Francisco called "In The Box." He moved to Taipei to open a new doll shop, and the new "Susie" series of dolls.

"Designing Susie was a dream come true. The series, stems from my love of Barbie," he said.

"Barbie has been around in the West for 50 years and has become a household name. But her popularity never took off, partly because the dolls were out of reach of families. That's why we designed a local toy brand for China and other Asian markets."

With Susie, he intended to bridge the gap between Barbie and local collectors. "The Susie series covers a wide range of fashion, from runway fashion, but what you see is the real wear," he said.

However, Teruel said nothing can stop Barbie's growth. "Many other dolls have come along, but none have even surpassed her in popularity. Mattel is so fast at catering to the new trends that it keeps Barbie up-to-date and highly collectible," he said.

"Nothing can push Barbie out of people's hearts," he said.

By Jin Zhu

Barbie is turning 50 this year. But the plastic queen has remained young and popular thanks to 500 improvements in her look, shape and clothing throughout the years. Today, the doll is more than a famous toy brand: it is an icon.

And that, US Barbie buff Rudi Teruel says, is why Barbie still turns the heads of collectors after all this time.

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Teruel has a bit of fun with life size Barbie mannequin.



- ① Come Fly With Me
- ② Coca Cola Barbie
- ③ Susie's debut exhibition in Taipei
- ④ Silkstone Barbie



CFP Photo

Photos provided by Rudi Teruel

Inside story of China's 30-year reform

By Han Manman

China has transformed into an important economic power during the last 30 years, and the country has a major presence in important world affairs.

However, for Robert Lawrence Kuhn, author of *How China's Leaders Think: The Inside Story of China's 30-Year Reform and What This Means for the Future* (600pp, Wiley, US \$29.95), the economic miracle carries new challenges and contradictions.

The book draws on China's 30 years of reform to delve into the way Chinese leaders think, from a Westerner's eyes, so that foreigners may understand the country's current policies and future prospects.

"To understand China, especially in the face of media distortion, the international community needs to appreciate how China's leaders think," Kuhn said.

The book is based on many exclusive interviews with top leaders – past, current and future – and it is written from an insider's perspective. It reflects the personal vision and commitment of the country's senior leaders, including the next generation. Issues pertaining to global and domestic matters – economics, political reform, the military, culture, the Internet and rural

THE INSIDE STORY OF CHINA'S 30-YEAR REFORM

HOW CHINA'S LEADERS THINK AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE FUTURE

ROBERT LAWRENCE KUHN

unrest – are discussed in depth by leaders from those sectors.

The Chinese edition of the book was released in Beijing, in December, as part of the 30-year anniversary of when the country started down the road to reform.

After 20 years of hard work, Kuhn has established personal relationships with many of China's top political leaders.

While he is proud to have had the chance to talk with so many top leaders, he admitted the book was no small task. One key difficulty was how to select mate-

rials that show China's achievements, but that also interest Western readers.

The second problem was translating the interviewees' quotations into English. Most Chinese leaders are unwilling to allow their exact words to be changed, he said, but rarely is direct word-to-word translation comprehensible or readable. "It's difficult to balance," Kuhn said.

The last problem was in selecting interviewees. Kuhn said China has so many political leaders, and one cannot interview one and neglect another in the same position without damaging relationships.

Although Kuhn stressed time and again the book's intent was to introduce "real China" to the world, he said he still expects to be labeled "pro-Communist" by Western critics, since his book did not focus on the country's more embarrassing negative points.

Kuhn is a long-time advisor to the Chinese government on economic and political reform, media, science and technology and international communications. His last book, *The Man Who Changed China: the Life and Legacy of Jiang Zemin* (2005), was the first biography of a living Chinese leader ever published in China.

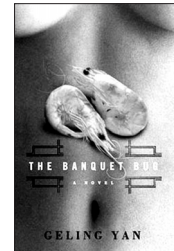
Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following best sellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

The Banquet Bug

By Geling Yan, 288pp, Hyperion, US \$14.00

Geling Yan captivates readers once more in this breakthrough novel. *Banquet* is the fantastical tale of Dan Dong, an unemployed factory worker whose life takes a series of unexpected twists after he discovers that, by posing as a journalist, he can eat exquisite gourmet meals for free at state-sponsored banquets. But the secrets he overhears at these events eventually lead Dan down a twisted, intrigue-laden path, and his subterfuge and his real identity become harder and harder to separate. When he becomes privy to a scandal that runs from the depths of society to its highest rungs, Dan must find a way to uncover the corruption without revealing the dangerous truth about himself.



Suite Francaise

By Irene Nemirovsky, 448pp, Vintage, US \$14.95

Beginning in Paris on the eve of the Nazi occupation in 1940, *Suite Francaise* tells the remarkable story of men and women thrown together in circumstances beyond their control. As Parisians flee the city, human folly surfaces in every imaginable way: a wealthy mother searches for sweets in a town without food; a couple is terrified at the thought of losing their jobs, even as their world begins to fall apart. Moving on to a provincial village now occupied by German soldiers, the locals must learn to coexist with the enemy – in their town, their homes, even in their hearts.

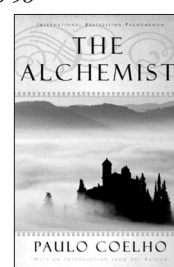


The Alchemist is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain, he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist.

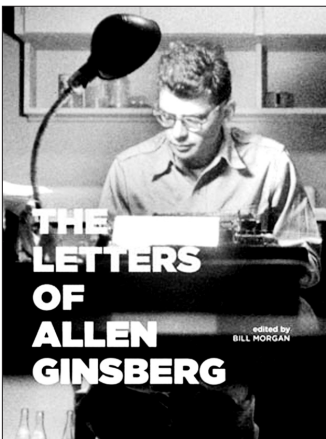
The Alchemist

By Paulo Coelho, 208pp, HarperCollins, US \$13.95

It is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain, he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist.



(By He Jianwei)



By Charles Zhu

Allen Ginsberg, the spokesman for the Beat Generation of west coast American poets, has always been a mystery to his fans, political activists and students of oriental philosophy because of the dramatic rise and fall in his mental state. In addition to his poems, readers can have a deeper insight into his titillating mental and poetic life through his own correspondences: *The Letters of Allen Ginsberg* (468pp, Da Capo Press, US \$30.00).

Editor Bill Morgan makes it possible for readers to explore the sexual possibilities, the Zen mind and the sentimental traces of the author of "Howl" through this volume of letters, in addition to existing journals, interviews and biographies about the poet who was regarded as the US's finest for a quarter century.

The mind of a leading beat poet

Ginsberg grew up in Peterson, New Jersey, amidst Jewish socialists. He had had faith in the strength of political actions ever since childhood. His father was a high school English teacher and occasional poet. It was he who introduced his son into the world of poetry. His mother was his inspiration. He was expelled from Columbia University for writing anti-Semitic slogans on its walls. After that, he went to live with Jack Kerouac and William Burroughs on the west coast. In the autumn of 1955, he recited for the first time his "Howl" at the Six Galleries in Berkeley. The poetry reading was marked as an informal coming-out of the Beat Generation in San Francisco.

Morgan, Ginsberg's biographer and archivist, has chosen 165 from more than 3,700 letters that are believed to exist.

In 1968, Ginsberg bought a farm in Cherry Valley, New York, in search of a quiet lyrical life. In a letter to his fellow poet Gary Snyder, he wrote, "We have three goats (1 now milk goats), I cow 1 horse (chestnut mare for pleasure) 15 chickens 3 ducks 2 geese... More kibbutz than commune." In the letter, he concluded, "I keep straying on mental anger war-paths, then come back to milking goats."

He openly advocated homosexuality and sexual desire and went so far as to take off his clothes at a poetry reading. In a letter

to Orlovsky, his long-time partner, Ginsberg described a typical brawl between Orlovsky and the psychiatrist R. D. Laing: "You poured milk and apple juice over the harmonium as well as R. D. Laing... A teapot lid was broken, tiny fragments, no vacuum cleaner yet and I was too injured to get thing straight till now. One cigarette burn on rug, one on hallway linoleum. My shin got kicked when you overturned the coffee table while I was sitting on the couch watching you and Laing go at it. The violence had escalated so high after you bit Lain on the mouth that, after knocking you down in anger myself, and you throwing a chair at me... I finally called the police."

His words say volumes about the Beat poets "drunken or on crack."

Ginsberg's letters reveal that the artists he most cherished were not poets, but singers. When he went to visit Ezra Pound in 1967, he brought records by "Beatles and Dylan and Donovan" as gifts. Pound "sat thru 3/4 hours of loud rock smiling" and remained silent.

Through the letters selected by Morgan, we are able to know more about the relations between the avant-garde poets of the Beat Generation, the mindset of such a great and controversial poet as Ginsberg who combined mysticism with poetry and revolted against the existing social problems that suppressed his growth.

Victory for the common man



Jabs for the media

By He Jianwei

Many Web sites make it easy for the average Joe to upload his own creative works on the Internet. Some of the most popular things to create and share are syndicated audio or video digital media files, often called podcasts. Although many Chinese podcasters upload their audio and video programs to the Web, few ever find their voice – fewer still find an audience for their voice. Last year, one man's Web radio and video stream, where he took pot shots at the mainstream media, drew over 80,000 viewers and listeners.



不入流阵地

Photos provided by Xian Yongjing

Several news reports, a weather report, feedback and several songs are the formula for the Buru6's radio program. It follows the same structure as a mainstream radio station, but if you listen to his program carefully, it will have you rolling in the aisle.

In his second broadcast, the program took jabs at mainstream Chinese television shows, which are notorious for behind-the-scenes scandals.

Xian Yongjing, born in the 1980s, has been running his radio show since last March. He is in charge of everything, including script writing, broadcasting, recording and editing the program.

He called his program "Buru6," since "it neither belongs to the mainstream media, nor the alternative media. I reject any style," Xian said.

Xian works for a Web site and has lots of spare time. He drew caricatures and wrote novels before he started to produce an online radio program.

It is easy for anyone to get into broadcasting since the only requirements are an audio editing program, like Adobe Audition, and a microphone.

He used to listen to the popular online station "Liulizhuang Radio." When it stopped updating, he was inspired to start his own station.

"Thanks to the Internet, ordinary people can make their own online 'newspaper,' 'radio' and 'television.' Of course, they can hardly compare with the mainstream media, but it is a good way to make the voice of ordinary people heard," he said.

Xian uploads a new program for syndication each week, in which he discusses the hot

issues of the week. He listened to what many other podcasters were doing, but said their programs were just imitating mainstream radio stations by doing things like reading "beautiful essays."



Xian Yongjing



Xian drew caricatures before he produces online radio.

The difference between his program and others, he said, is that he is "concerned about the news that people are interested in."

He always has an opinion on the topics of the day. In his sixth show, he did a report on Furong Jiejie, also called "Sister Lotus," whose misplaced confidence in her

looks, writing and dancing ability made her an Internet legend.

Last year, Sister Lotus held a solo concert at the Star Live. Xian's special report was titled "Sister Lotus withdraws from the entertainment circle."

He also includes songs in his podcast, usually made by himself or other underground artists or bands.

"There are many great underground artists and bands in Beijing. I love their music and hope more people can hear their work," he said.

"Many people love my programs, maybe because they can feel happy when they listen to them. And the happiness I provide is an unsophisticated kind," he said.

Half a year after he created his radio program, he started work on a television broadcast. "Video is easier to spread to netizens," he said.

Just as the Internet gave Xian an outlet for expression, it also gave his listeners and watchers an outlet for feedback. Every Saturday and Sunday, audiences from all over China discuss the program with him. Some give suggestions for the next week and others arrange to appear as a guest.

His next plan is to make an online movie. Last week, he selected actors and actresses, and shooting for the first act begins this weekend.

The movie is adapted from the Japanese cartoon Dr. Slump & Arale-chan, which ran from 1981 to 1986. "This cartoon does not try to tell a story about a hero. It is about ordinary people," he said.

Regardless of which media he chooses, Xian's goal is to entertain the common man.

When only a custom-made dress is the answer

By Venus Lee

Have you ever made a fashion faux pas? Are you tired of being caught wearing the same dress as someone else? Do you want attire that incorporates your creative ideas? If you said yes to any two of these questions, then it's time to visit a tailoring shop.



Yan Longxuan

The outstanding feature of Yan Longxuan's garments is their fine embroidery. Patterns of butterflies, cranes, phoenixes, dragons, lotuses, mandarin ducks and auspicious clouds are popular among Chinese clients, while Westerners prefer abstract and geometric designs, Li Ping, the shop's owner said.

Yan Longxuan offers custom-made wedding dresses and costumes, and all its fabrics come from Hangzhou, the country's silk and satin capital. Over the years, it has acquired a loyal following; its customers range from office workers to foreign diplomats. It also enjoys a good reputation in the entertainment industry for its distinctive designs.

Yan Longxuan aims to turn every dress into a piece of art, and its owner into the belle of the ball, Li said.

Yan Longxuan

Where: East side of Ya Show, 58 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6417 8769

Photos by Venus Lee

Dave's Custom Tailoring

The shop was named by *Forbes* magazine as one of the world's premier custom tailors. Its owner, Taiwan-born Dave Sheung, began learning his trade at the age of 15 as an apprentice for a Shanghai master. After cutting suits for ambassadors, presidents, even kings, Sheung moved his operation to the mainland in the mid-1990s. He set up his first branch at the Kerry Centre in 1996.

The fabrics that the shop uses are imported from the UK and Italy, and chosen for their quality. Sheung said he favors the "full canvas cut," which is handmade and contains woven linen and horse or camel hair between the jacket's exterior fabric and interior lining, over "fused" or melded together with glue. The majority of the shop's customers are businessmen, Sheung said.

Dave's Custom Tailoring

Where: 104, Kerry Centre, 1 Guanghai Lu, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 8529 9433



Lisa's Tailoring Shop

Located in Sanlitun, the shop enjoys a good reputation among foreigners. It custom-makes suits and formal dresses.

Lisa's is owned by a Chinese couple, Lisa and Jack, whose father was a tailor. Jack learned the craft and opened the shop in 2005.

What makes the shop's creations stand out is the marriage of Chinese and Western elements, courtesy of Lisa's designs. Its fabrics come from Hangzhou, but most have classic Western patterns.

The shop can finish a garment within 24 hours for customers who are in a hurry. It also provides door-to-door service. Besides suits, Lisa's also makes coats, shirts and traditional Chinese dresses.

Lisa's Tailoring Shop

Where: 5011, 3.3 Plaza, 33 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5136 5879



Other shops

Alex Wang Designing Studio

Where: 2205, Block B, Building 10, Pingod, 32 Yard, Baizhiwanlu, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 5826 3402, 5869 8082

Rose Studio

Where: 2C Schengen International, 5 Laiguangying Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8490 7322

VIIIV Haute Couture

Where: 4038, Building 4, Jianwai Soho, Chaoyang District.

Zhang Binqiao Studio

Where: 1006 Ritan Office Building, A15 Guanghai Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8563 0702



Elysee Yang

If Dave's is a favorite among businessmen, designer Elysee Yang has a huge following among high-powered, sophisticated women.

A graduate of the Paris Dressing College, Yang established her own brand in France in 2004. A shop in Sanlitun followed.

Yang says she makes pieces that are avant-garde, but with a classic cut. Her creations incorporate pleats, tidy designs and rich colors. Dresses are cut to accentuate and flatter the feminine form, and to retain an element of fun with the use of bright prints, like a qipao-esque robe with a hem that is cut high at the back. She imports fabrics from Japan, Korea and France.

Frequent customers are rewarded with a VIP program that offers discounts on future purchases. The shop also offers alterations to dresses.

Elysee Yang

Where: D109 (1/F), Nali Plaza, 81 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6413 2187



Sushi straight from the supermarket

By Wang Yu

For those who work in the CBD or other high-rise office buildings, finding an affordable restaurant that offers appetizing food has long been a problem. Beijing's cheap and delicious road-side food stalls have been displaced in the city's rapid urbanization.

In this setting, McDonald's has become the default choice. But office workers fresh out of college find its prices steep, while the health-conscious will not touch it. So what should a person do? *Beijing Today* suggests stopping by a supermarket or convenience store to grab a pack of sushi – which can work just as well for dinner.

With an average price of 8 yuan for six pieces of sushi, it's value for money. But customers should not compare it with the stuff they get at Japanese restaurants; remember you get what you pay for.

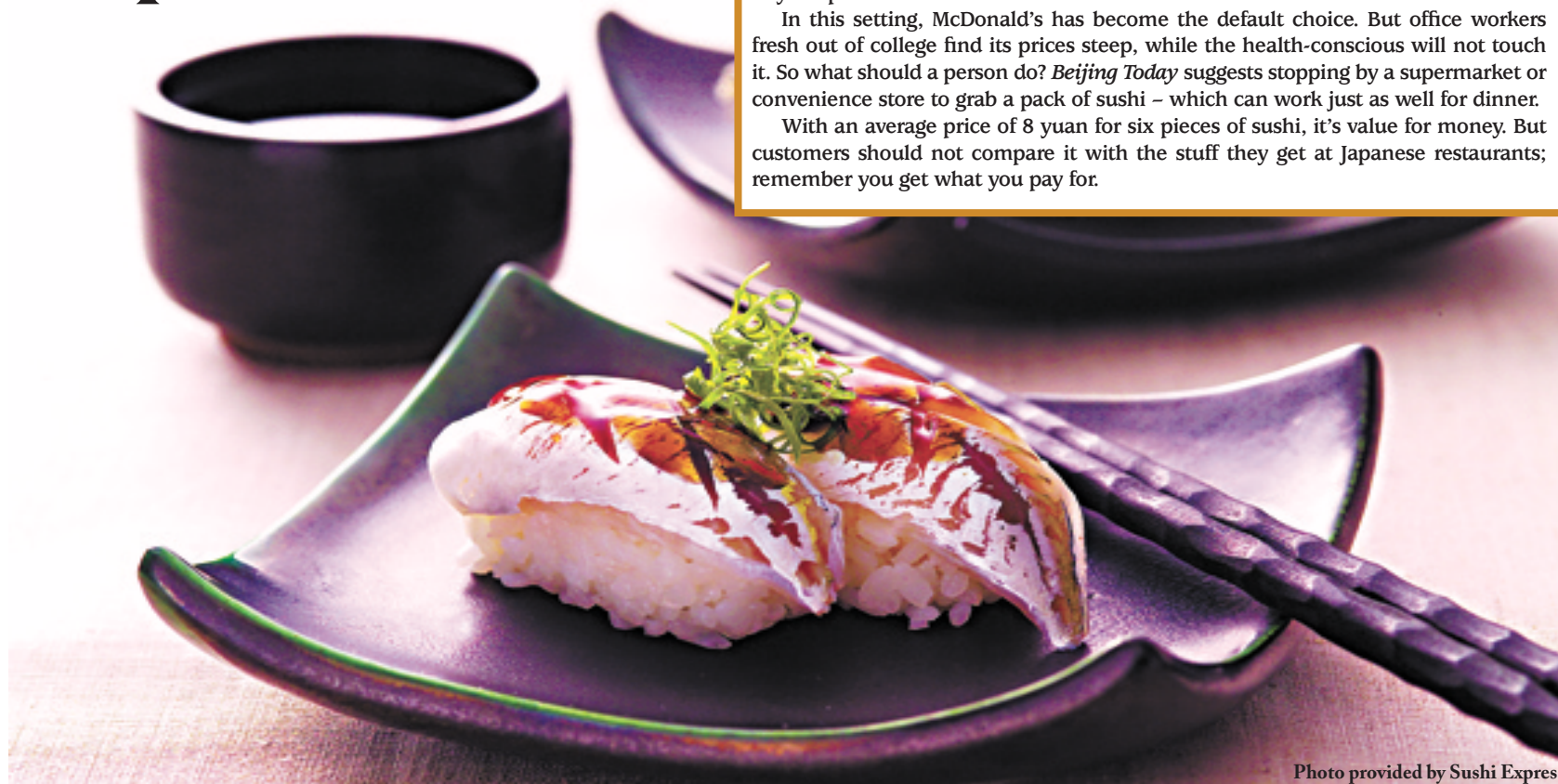


Photo provided by Sushi Express

Sushi Express

Sushi, which comes from an archaic grammatical form of the word that is no longer used in other contexts, means "it's sour." Sushi, combines rice and sashimi, which refers to sliced raw fish.

Sushi has evolved into differ tastes and appearances like the *makizushi* and *gunk-anmaki*. Sushi Express, a Taiwan-based take-away shop, that has opened a branch inside Carrefour Baishiqiao, offers the more popular type of sushi.

Sushi in the store are classified according to price – between 1 and 3 yuan – based on their stuffing. The sushi with roasted eel meat is oilier than the rest, but is really fresh. Raw fish lovers should not miss the sushi with salmon. It is best eaten straight from the shelf; it might become a little dry by the time customers get home. Try adding a few drops of water to the fish meat, then put the sushi in the refrigerator for 10 minutes.

Packed meals in a variety of flavors are also available, with prices ranging from 6 to 25 yuan. Soy sauce and wasabi are free.

Sushi Express
Where: B1, Carrefour Baishiqiao branch, A18 Baishiqiao Lu, Xicheng District
Open: 8 am – 10 pm
Tel: 8802 9310

7-Eleven



Twiggy Song, a Web site editor who works at Chaowai Soho, has put the convenience store 7-Eleven on top of her list. "Besides all their regular goods, the sushi there is cheap and taste quite good. You can get a pack of six sushi and a box of salad for less than 15 yuan. That's enough for a girl's lunch," Song said.

Sushi with Bearnaise Sauce and Tuna (6.90 yuan) is recommended. It has a light taste and the rice is not too sour or too sweet. The Tofu Sheet Sushi with Shrimp (9.50 yuan), which does not have the nori or seaweed sheets, is a bit sweet.

Popular among 7-Eleven customers is the omusubi or rice ball, which comes in over 10 flavors, including salmon, beef, chicken and roasted eel meat. These best sellers are the easiest to find. The company comes up with new sushi flavors every couple of months.

Vegetables and fruits are essential for a healthy diet. At 7-Eleven, shoppers can find a large dish of potato salad (3.50 yuan) and other vegetable and seafood salads to make their lunch nutritionally balanced.

All of 7-Eleven's sushi, omusubi and salads are made in Tianjin and delivered to Beijing twice a day: in the morning and at noon. Hungry office workers need to be quick, because the Japanese dishes sell fast in crowded areas. Take note: the store does not offer extra soy sauce or wasabi for the sushi.

7-Eleven

Where: B6, Chaowai Soho, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District (and other 7-Eleven branches around town)

Open: 24 hours
Tel: 8406 0177

Photo provided by 7-Eleven

BHG Marketplace



Photo by Song Nannan

Located in Solana Plaza on the west side of Chaoyang Park, BHG Marketplace is a high-end store owned by the Hualian supermarket corporation. Do not be intimidated by BHG's introduction which says it "highlights a personalized, high-quality way of life through products like health food, cleaning appliances, automotive decorative items..." The sushi here are sold at a relatively low price.

Hosomaki Sushi with raw or cooked salmon (7.80 yuan) is ideal for lunch, while a packed meal of sushi with vegetables and roe (13.80 yuan) can make a good dinner. The roasted eel sashimi (25 yuan) and tuna salad (10 yuan) are both worth the money.

The fish meat and roe used in the sushi are imported from Japan. Most of BHG's food are made before the noon, so it is better to go shopping at lunchtime. The sushi usually gets sold out, but anything left over is removed from the shelf the same day.

Every weekend, BHG holds sushi-making lessons. You can try one or two pieces during the class and get tips on how to make your own cheap, healthy lunch.

BHG Marketplace

Where: SMM06, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 9 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6585 5858

Other shops:

Xianpin Sushi Take-away

The store offers packed meals along with sushi, although the rice can be a little hard and the flavors are nothing to write home about. It is a convenient choice for those who work in the Xizhimen area.

Where: B1, Jiamao Shopping Center, 1 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

Open: 8 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8836 6969

Meiqi Sushi

A really small shop with food prepared on-the-spot. Its Meat Floss Sushi is recommended.

Where: Xiaobaiyang Supermarket, Guanmen Bei, Xuanwu District

Open: 8 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6331 1749

Ito Yokado Supermarket

This Japanese supermarket offers a wide range of Japanese food. Here's a helpful tip: Customers who buy sushi after 8 pm get a discounts; sometimes they are even buy-one-get-one-free.

Where: A3, Chaoyang Lu, Chaoyang District (and other branches around town)

Open: 9 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6556 5566

Upcoming

Nightlife
Young Knives

This UK-based geek band plays tongue-in-cheek dance rock that makes listeners not only move, but think and laugh.

Where: Mao Live, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: March 4, 9 pm
Admission: 120 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

5 Friday, February 27**Exhibition****Gustavo R. Rugeles Solo Exhibition**

A visual artist, Rugeles has produced drawings, paintings, photographs and motion graphics.

Where: Enoteca, The Place, 9A Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until March 20, daily noon – 9:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6587 1578

Pecha Kucha – Joint Exhibition

Ten creative minds – artists, architects and designers – present their works.

Where: Yan Club Arts Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: February 28, 4-7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3506

Movie**Harold and Maude**

Where: Mo Box Books, 288 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District
When: 7 pm
Admission: 5-10 yuan
Tel: 8261 8538

Man Bites Dog

Where: Lanyang Bookstore, 3 Shuimo Xinqu, Haidian District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6265 5069

Nightlife**Bad Apple**

The born-in-California band will perform a combination of rock, reggae and blues.

Where: Lotus Blue (inside Lotus Lane), 51-56 Dianmen Dong Dajie, Xicheng District
When: 9 pm
Tel: 6617 2599

6 Saturday, February 28**Exhibition****No Take Only**

Where: The First Sound Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District



When: Until March 27, daily except Monday, 9 am – 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9888

Movie**Black Snow**

Where: Yufeng Bookstore, 69

Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6270 1928

Music and Life

Where: Beibeiku Cafe, 3 Guangqu Dong Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 5-6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8721 5576

Nightlife**Greenpeace**

A number of bands join forces to lend the powers of rock to the causes of Greenpeace in China.

Where: Mao Live, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

7 Sunday, March 1**Exhibition****Qin Gallery's Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition**

The exhibition features more than 30 works by young Chinese painters like Wang Meng. The paintings portray the artists' perceptions of the age in which they live, their lives and their social environment.

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E, Chaoyang District

When: Until March 31, daily except Monday, 9:30 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461

Videotheque

Videotheque showcases over 200 videos by 20 Chinese artists.
Where: ShanghART Gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: Until March 10, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 3202

Nightlife**Gypsy Jazz and French Waltzes**

The first Sunday of each month brings gypsy jazz and French waltzes to the cafe courtesy of three musicians armed with guitars and accordions.

Where: Vineyard Cafe, 31 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6402 7961

Lonely China Day

Where: Mao Live, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9:30 pm
Admission: 49.90 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Love needs a safe distance

By He Jianwei

It is said that when two porcupines huddle for warmth, the closer they get, the more they hurt each other with their quills. But if they stay too far apart, they will die from the cold. They have to find an in-between, in which they are warm enough but do not hurt one another.

This is similar to the relationship between two persons, said the directors of *Safe Distance of Love*, a drama that will stage its second round of performances from Tuesday until March 15 at the Oriental Pioneer Theater. The first round took place last August and September.

"Love hurts and happiness also contains sorrow, so in order to achieve the most 'warmth,' everyone has to suffer some pain," Zhang Hong, one of the directors, said.

All the acts focus on love, including rapturous first love, painful partings and the sober reality of living together day-to-day. The directors use the metaphor of the porcupines to illustrate the difficulty of communication between partners.

"Almost everyone can find his or her love story in this drama," Zhang said.

The directors also added comic elements, through performers' exaggerated body language, in the hopes that laughter might lead the audience to contemplate the philosophy of love. Following its first screening, one audience member commented online that the play "made me laugh so hard tears were running from my eyes."

One of the drama's highlights is its original musical score, created by 21-year-old Xu Kejia, and sung by the actors and actresses. Xu composed one of the songs, "Seine," after he attended the French leg of the world tour of Damon Albarn's *Monkey: Journey to the West*. Another song, "Time," was an improvisation made during a *Safe Distance of Love* rehearsal.

At the end of the play, actors and actresses read lines from the story of the two porcupines. "We want to tell the audience that love needs a safe distance between lovers, but that it is difficult to measure what that distance should be," Zhang said.

Safe Distance of Love

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao (East of the Oriental Plaza), Dongcheng District

When: Until March 15 except Monday, 7:30 pm
Admission: 280 yuan for VIP, 180 yuan, 100 yuan and 50 yuan for students only
Tel: 6559 7364

**Stage in March****Concert****Israeli Jazz Pianist Yaron Herman Recital**

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng District
When: March 1, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Vienna Philharmonic Concert

Who: Conducted by Zubin Mehta
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District
When: March 8-9, 7:30 pm
Admission: 280-1,880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2008-2009 Music Festival

Who: Conducted by Okko Kamu
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng District
When: March 13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Sarah Brightman World Tour 2009

Where: Capital Gymnasium, 54 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian District
When: March 22, 7:30 pm
Admission: 380-2,000 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2008-2009 Music Festival

Who: Conducted by Jin Wang
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang District
When: March 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6501 1854

Alexander Paley Piano Recital

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng District
When: March 29, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Dance**Onegin**

Who: China National Ballet
Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District
When: March 1, 7:30 pm
Admission: 120-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Mei Lanfang

Who: The Guangzhou Ballet
Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District
When: March 6-8, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Raise the Red Lantern

Who: China National Ballet
Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District
When: March 14-15, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama**A Handful of Wild Jujubes**

Who: Directed by Zhang Jigang
Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall (west side of the Great Hall of the People), Xicheng District
When: March 10-12, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

When eating healthy became a disorder

By Han Manman

Vegetarianism, and organic eating are regularly touted as “pure” ways to eat, and proponents say they lead to a healthier and more ethical lifestyle.

However, does it mention other disorders caused by an extreme obsession with health?

A new type of eating disorder is emerging where people are obsessed with eating to improve their health. Fan Zhihong, a professor in the department of nutrition and food in China Agriculture University, said this new wave of nutritional obsession, known as “Orthorexia,” describes obsessing about eating healthy to the point where one’s health is damaged.

Example

For Li Zizhi, a 26-year-old office lady from Beijing, eating a nutritious lunch or dinner is a painstaking ritual.

She neither eats with her colleague at the company dining hall nor restaurants. She only prepares food by herself.

“Sometimes it takes days to prepare meals, because I have to count how many calories and vitamins are present

and check for additives,” she said. “I am constantly thinking about what I am going to have for my next meal.”

Li’s doctor told her that her lifestyle – the eating in particular – may be a threat to her health.

“Society tells me eating healthy and being thin is good, so how can my behavior be a disorder?” Li said.

Test

To determine if you have orthorexia, consider the following questions:

1. Are you spending more than three hours a day thinking about healthy food?
2. Are you planning tomorrow’s menu today?
3. Is the virtue you feel about what you eat more important than the pleasure you receive from eating it?
4. Have you become stricter with yourself? Do you look down on others who don’t eat the same way?
5. Do you skip foods you once enjoyed in order

to eat the “right” foods?

6. Does your diet make it difficult for you to eat anywhere but at home, distancing you from friends and family?

7. Do you feel guilty or self-loathing when you stray from your diet?

8. When you eat the way you’re supposed to, do you feel in total control?

If you answered yes to two or three of these questions, you may have a mild case of orthorexia. Four or more means it’s time to lighten up. If all these items apply, you might consider seeking professional help.

More begin to suffer eating disorder

In their quest to taking healthy eating to the extreme, orthorexics develop increasingly specific food rules. Working out how to stick to their self-imposed dietary regimen takes up more and more of their time, and they are compelled to plan meals several days ahead. They tend to take a “survival kit” of their own food with them when they go out, as they cannot eat readily available foods due to fear of fat, chemicals or other ingredients.

People suffering from the addiction – usually raw food purists, vegetarians and vegans – obsessively check labels, avoid junk food, plan menus and often eat a healthy diet so they can feel “pure,” Fan said.

“If you get a thrill or pleasure from planning a healthy menu for the day after tomorrow, something is wrong with your focus,” Fan said.

She said the current stream of reports of food problems have made more people than ever edgy about their next meal.

“Many of have given up animal-related foods or the food they thought maybe contaminated by chemical fertilizers or pesticides,” Fan said.

“However, they just refuse certain foods without planning where else they can get that nutrition, which will eventually lead to a nutritional deficiency,” Fan said.

Bad for health

Long term eating disorders are damaging to one’s health, Fan said.

She said when people obsess about healthy food, their relationships suffer and their health deteriorates as menu options vanish.

Their rigid diet forces them to forego dinner invites and live in social isolation, Fan said.

In its extreme stages, orthorexia can turn into anorexia, which often involves severe weight loss. “Many so-called orthorexics are obsessed with food quality, rather than quan-

tity, and strive for personal purity in their eating habits rather than for a thin physique,” she said.

Fan said the biggest problem for eating disorder patients is that it’s hard for them to recognize they have a problem. But when the problem becomes too obvious to ignore, it is often already severe.

She warned that orthorexics could require 6 to 12 years to adjust and fully recover from their disorder.

“When the body is so hurt, it’s difficult to restore it to its original condition,” Fan said.

Be happy with who you are

The best diet is still diverse and nutrient-rich, Fan said.

“Even if you don’t eat things like meat, eggs and milk, you must eat something else like processed tofu to replace that lost nutrition,” Fan said.

There is no guaranteed way to prevent anorexia or other eating disorders, but doctors are in the best position to recognize early indicators and prevent the illness from advancing. They can ask the patients questions about their eating habits

and satisfaction with their appearance during routine medical appointments, Fan said.

“Consult a therapist another medical professional who specializes in eating disorders if you believe your feelings, thoughts and behaviors concerning food are unhealthy,” Fan said.

“Not everything society normalizes is OK. We need to find balance in our lives and be happy with who we are,” Fan said.

CFP Photo

A world of churches in Beijing



Tomb of Matteo Ricci

By Jackie Zhang

Buddhism has spread far and wide in China since its introduction. Although Christianity never rose to prominence in China, it was actually introduced to the capital in the seventh century by Nestorian missionaries from Assyria. As Catholicism fragmented, the Eastern Orthodox Church and Protestantism were also introduced. At least 17 old churches remain in Beijing, where religious services are still held along with weddings and baptisms.

First days

Most churches we see today were built during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912) dynasties. They were places in which Westerners and locals held religious activities.

Missionaries sent by the Pope were not only devoted Christians, but also intellectuals who brought Western technology to China. Italian Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci (1552-1610) displayed a tellurion, a triangular prism and a clock inside his church, and invited Chinese people to view them. Missionaries also learned Chinese culture and took it back to their home countries.



Buildings attached to Maweigou Church is being used by the Beijing Administrative College.

Shizisi Temple

The Shizisi Temple is the oldest church in Beijing according to historical records. It was built in the Jin Dynasty (265-420) as a Buddhist temple. In Tang (618-907), it became the church of the Nestorians, a Christian sect which entered China in 635 AD. In the Liao Dynasty (907-1125), it was turned back into a Buddhist temple.

The temple, which was named Shizisi by a Yuan emperor in 1358, has three halls, which have been ravaged by time. The foundation is all that remains, apart from two white marble steles in the courtyard. In 2006, it was listed as a national protected cultural relic.

Getting there:

The temple is located northwest of Chechang Village in Zhoukoudian, Fangshan District. Take Bus 917 to Fangshan, then transfer to a minibus. Get off at Lumenyu in Chechang Village.



The statue of St. Francis Xavier stands in front of Xuanwumen Church.

CFP Photo

Xuanwumen Catholic Church

This is the oldest Catholic Church in Beijing, constructed by Matteo Ricci in 1605. The church used to be smaller; in 1650, it was rebuilt by Johann Adam Schall von Bell (1591-1666) from Germany. After being damaged by fire and war, it was rebuilt in 1904.

The church, also called Nantang or South Cathedral, follows the Gothic style. Inside are two steles that used to be part of the original church, but whose characters can no longer be discerned.

Getting there:

It located at 141 Qianmen Xi Dajie, Xuanwu District. Take Buses 15, 44, 45, 48, 61, 102, 105 or 109 and get off at Xuanwumen.

Maweigou Catholic Church

The remains of the Catholic Church is inside the Beijing Shiwei Dangxiao, or Beijing Administrative College, in Xicheng District. The church was built in front of a graveyard for Western clergy in the Ming and Qing dynasties.

When the War of Resistance against Japanese Invasion began in 1937, Maweigou Church and its graveyard were occupied by the Japanese army, and the clergy were dismissed. The church's decline began.

After 1949, foreign missionaries in Maweigou left China and the church fell to the managed of Chinese clergy. In 1954, the church and its amenities were sold to the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, and after which it was torn down and rebuilt as a dining hall.

Among those buried there was Matteo Ricci, the Jesuit missionary who built the oldest Catholic church in Beijing: South Cathedral in Xuanwumen. He came to China in 1582 and to Beijing 16 years later. He died in Beijing in 1610. During the Cultural Revolution, the tombs of Matteo Ricci and other missionaries were buried underground. What visitors see today is a reconstruction of his tomb erected in 1978.

Maweigou was also called Shimen Church because of the stone archway in front of the church. Only the archway and two side buildings remain.

Getting there:

It is at 6 Chegongzhuang Dajie, Xicheng District. Take Buses 19 or 812, get off at Santasi then walk toward the south side of the road.

Wangfujing Catholic Church

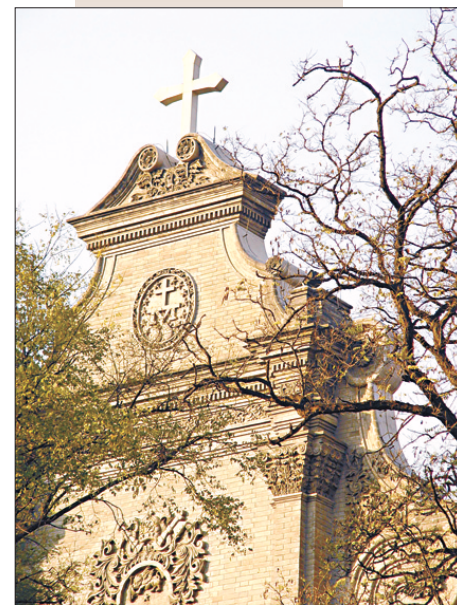
The church is also called Dongtang, which means "the church in the east" of Beijing. It is one of the city's four most famous Catholic churches. Inside is a statue of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Although Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus according to Christian tradition, he served as Jesus' foster father and head of the Holy Family.

Dongtang was established by missionaries Ludovic Bugli (1606-1682) from Italy and Gabriel de Magalhae (1610-1677) from Portugal, who came to Beijing from Sichuan at the end of Ming Dynasty. They built the church on a plot of land granted by the Qing government in 1655 as a reward for their good behavior and huge following.

In the centuries that followed, the structure was damaged several times by earthquakes, fire and war. The church closed in 1966 during the Cultural Revolution and reopened in late 1980. It was renovated in 1904, and again in 2000, when its main square was enlarged.

Getting there:

The church is located at 74 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. Take Buses 103, 104, 803 or 814 and get off at Dong'an Shichang.



The xuanwumen Catholic Church

CFP Photo

Continued on page 21...

... continued from page 20

Zhonghua Anglican Church

The wood church was constructed according to traditional Chinese architecture. It is the best-preserved Anglican Church in Beijing, and has a bell tower.

Anglicanism, a branch of Christianity that broke away from Rome at the time of the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, sent missionary Charles Perry Scott to China in 1874. The Englishman first preached in Shandong Province. In 1880, he was appointed the church's first bishop of northern China and moved to Beijing. He died in Shanghai in 1927.

Getting there:

The church is located at 85 Tongling Lu, Xicheng District. Take Buses 25, 48, 337 or 703 and get off at Changchunjie. Walk east toward Tongling Lu; Zhonghua church is on the west side of the road.

Xizhimen Catholic Church

This church, named Shengmu Shengxin or the Sacred Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is another one of the city's four most famous Catholic churches. Also called Xitang or "west church," it is the newest and smallest of the four. Inside is a statue of the Virgin Mary.

The church was founded by Italian missionary Teodorico Pedrini (1670-1746), who came to Beijing during the reign of Emperor Kangxi (1661-1722). He taught the imperial princes about Western culture; his students included the man who would one day become Emperor

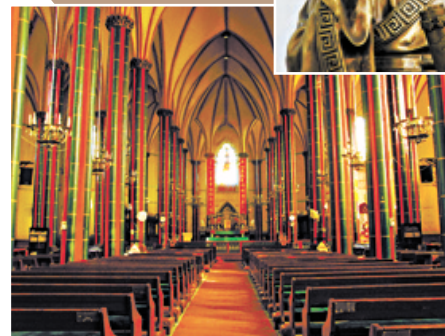
Yongzheng (1722-1735).

In 1723, Pedrini bought a piece of land near Xizhimen on which he built a church. It was damaged in 1811, rebuilt in 1867, and damaged again in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion. It was reconstructed in 1912, but the top of the bell tower is gone. Regular religious activities in Xitang resumed in the 1990s.

Getting there:

The church is at the south side of Xizhimen Nei Dajie in Xicheng District. Take Buses 105, 111, or 808, get off at Xinkai Hutong, then walk west for about 100 meters.

A bronze statue of Matteo Ricci in front of Xishiku Church



Xishiku Church's interior

Xishiku Church

Xishiku, Beijing's largest, is near Zhongnanhai on the west side of the Forbidden City. It was built in 1703, during the Qing Dynasty, torn down in 1827 and rebuilt in 1865.

In 1886, Emperor Guangxu (1871-1908) wanted to renovate the structures around the Forbidden City's three lakes – Zhonghai, Nanhai and Beihai – as a residence for Empress Dowager Cixi. Since the church was near Zhongnanhai, people could see the imperial quarters from its bell tower. Thus, it was moved to Xishiku Dajie, reaching completion in 1887.

The church, which is also known as Beitang or "north church," was built in the Gothic style with 80 stained-glass windows. On each side of the gate is a pavilion with steles. Its side buildings, including an abbey and a foundling, are now office spaces.

Xishiku was badly damaged during the Cultural Revolution. It was renovated by professionals and parishioners in 1985, and reopened on Christmas Day that year.

Getting there:

It is at 33 Xishiku Dajie, Xicheng District. Take Buses 14 or 55, get off at Xi'anmen, then walk along Xishiku Dajie toward the north.

St. Michael's Church

St. Michael's, built by a French priest in 1901, is the capital's most recent Catholic Church. At first, it was only open to foreign diplomats. It was subsequently enlarged by French nationals and has not been damaged since its completion.

Inside is a statue of St. Michael the Archangel, one of the 50 principal angels in Christian and Islamic tradition and regarded as the field commander of the Army of God. Beside the angel are images of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary.

The church, a product of Gothic architecture, was built by combining features of the city's four most popular Catholic churches. On its western and eastern walls are stained-

glass windows imported from France at the end of the Qing Dynasty. It has two towers, and above the gate is another statue of St. Michael.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the church was turned over to the Beijing Patriotic Catholic Association. Afterwards, it was turned into a primary school. In 1986, the primary school moved locations; the church was renovated and religious activities resumed.

Getting there:

The church is located at 14 Taijichang Dajie, Dongcheng District. Take Buses 3, 8, 9, 41, 44 or 104 and get off at Chongwenmen. Walk west to Taijichang Dajie; the church is on the east side of the road.



St. Michael's Church



Xishiku Church
CFP Photos

Women in the World of Business



By Dania Fang

Throughout history, numerous jobs were considered gender specific. For example, managerial positions were predominantly filled by men and nursing positions were predominantly filled by women. After years of equality movements, it appears the doors are finally open for both men and women to enter any profession they choose;

gender is becoming less of an issue. In order for one to fully understand this transition for women in the world of business, one must consider the reasons for the initial disparity and the changes that have helped to promote equality in the workplace.

Challenges facing female employees

Throughout history, women have often felt the burden of choosing between accelerating their career and raising a family. Many jobs that lead to high pay and managerial opportunities involve relocation, extensive travel, financial uncertainty, and risky assignments. These risky and adventurous paths were and still are difficult for women to accept when considering their responsibility toward a stable family. Therefore, women traditionally accepted positions that were safe and provided financial security for their families. As competition for these positions is intense, accepting a lower salary is frequently a sacrifice that must be made. Historically, men are more willing to accept positions that involve longer work days and overtime; thus, increasing their chances to earn more and climb the corporate ladder.

Outside of their decision to raise a stable family, women also face the challenge of possessing different behavioral patterns than their male counterparts. Men are often more aggressive, and if they have an opinion or suggestion they are more willing to jump into – or even interrupt – conversation in order to contribute. Women were traditionally viewed as and expected to be more conservative: views which prevented women from aggressively expressing their viewpoints and kept managerial positions out of reach.

Today's Changes

One of the fastest growing trends today is the hiring of women for management positions. More and more female managers are joining the business elite. Numerous changes account for this transition. One can easily observe that women are adapting a more masculine attitude towards work. Women today are more aggressive and proactive when offering their opinion or disagreeing with a strategic decision. In some professions, such as modeling or public relations, women have demonstrated a unique skill set and certain intuition that makes them better suited than male counterparts at times.

Companies now realize that women, regardless of the position, add to the diversity of their workforce and bring new ideas and a fresh perspective to the challenges they face. Therefore, women are by no means forced to copy male behavior but rather can focus on their own gender-specific strengths and talents.

Implications for Managers

Although full equality is within sight, managers must remember the challenges women have faced. Many female employees remain deeply concerned with how their job will affect their family life. Astute managers will try to understand each staff member's family situation and will express concern and empathy when a business decision may affect a subordinate's family life. If relocation or excessive overtime is involved, managers may need to focus on solutions to prevent these decisions from harming a staff member's family life. On average, women are still more conservative and passive, especially in meetings. Managers looking to gain a greater diversity of ideas must continuously encourage everyone in their meetings to participate and voice their opinions, even if in disagreement. They should keep in mind the advantages of having organizations, departments and teams with a healthy mix of male and female employees.



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TRAINING FIRM
OF THE YEAR



CFP Photo

Dania Fang is a recent intern at ClarkMorgan, and who is now completing her degree in international communications at Hanze University in Groningen, the Netherlands.

Dining

Dim Sum feast debuts

Dive headfirst into the world of Chinese dim sum. The master chefs at Asia Bistro prepare Chinese dim sum using only the best shrimp, pork, bean and glutinous rice combined with the freshest vegetables, sesame and lotus seed—all delicately peppered with creative presentation.

Where: Asia Bistro, JW Marriott Hotel Beijing, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 1-14

Cost: 168 yuan (lunch buffet), 238 yuan (dinner buffet), subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5908 6688

Eating with Nemo

Dive headfirst into the freshest seafood that Beijing has to offer, including a sumptuous array of king crabs, freshly shucked oysters, lobster, caviar, prawns and salmon. Savor the flavor of your fresh catch with a range of home-made condiments, or have it steamed, fried or roasted to your taste.

Where: Elements, Hilton Beijing, 1

Dongfang Lu, Dong Bei Sanhuan, Chaoyang District

When: Every Friday 6-10 pm

Cost: 228 yuan (includes tea and coffee), 288 yuan (includes tea, coffee and free flowing local draft beer), subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5865 5020

Japanese Buffet Dinner



Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong Orchard Terrace presents a Japanese Buffet Dinner. Various delicious Japanese dishes are available for you to enjoy; soft drinks, sake, juice and coffee are free of charge. One person in each party of three can eat free, and each table receives a complementary half-lobster sashimi.

Where: Chang Fu Gong Hotel, 26 Jian-

guomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Before March 31

Cost: 298 yuan net (Monday to Thursday buffet dinner), 328 yuan net (Friday to Sunday buffet dinner)

Tel: 5877-555 ext 61

Green Cocktails

Celebrate Ireland National's Day. Soak in the Irish atmosphere with Canape buffet and green cocktails like Irish Eyes, St. Paddy Appletini, Lucky Melon Ball and Shamrock.

Where: Havana Bar, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 1-31

Cost: 60 yuan per glass

Tel: 8587 6888



Hotel

New GM of Sofitel Wanda Beijing

Ian Alexandre has been appointed general manager of the Sofitel Wanda Beijing. Alexandre has devoted himself to international hospitality development for 20 years and worked for ITT Sheraton for 12 years. After his final position at a Sheraton hotel in Shanghai, he joined the Four Seasons Group and has worked in Hong Kong, the US, Malaysia and China.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8599 6666

New Standards of French Elegance

Long recognized for delivering the utmost in elegant French hospitality and artistry, Sofitel Luxury Hotels is continuing to implement its extensive brand revamp and redesign its hotel network to further create distinct, memorable moments for distinguished clientele. With the introduction of SO by Sofitel and Sofitel Legend to the Sofitel Luxury Hotels lineup, the French hospitality group has solidified its reputation as a global master of the luxury hotel experience.

Web site: sofitel.com

Special Stay Package

Shangri-La Hotel Tokyo, the first Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts property in Japan, offers Discover Shangri-La, a special stay package in celebration of its opening on March 2. Until April 12, guests can experience Shangri-La's legendary hospitality in a Deluxe room for 110,000 yen per night, excluding service charges. The stay includes breakfast and commemorative gift, single or double occupancy, subject to availability.

Tel: 81 3 6739 7888

Web site: shangri-la.com

(By Sun Feng)

Aviation

A330 features new Kris-world and iPod/iPhone connectivity

Singapore Airlines announced that all customers, including those in Economy Class, on its new A330-300 aircraft will be able to enjoy iPod and iPhone connectivity through the new KrisWorld, the airline's award-winning

in-flight entertainment system. Singapore Airlines is the first airline to offer the feature in its Economy Class cabin, after it debuted on the airline's All-Business Class A340-500 aircraft last year.

Emirates' Special Offers

Excellent online fares are available to Chinese residents through March 31. Economy Class return fare starts from 5,110 yuan on the morn-

ing flight EK309/EK308 from Beijing-Dubai. Fares from Shanghai and Guangzhou start from 5,110 yuan and 4,760 yuan respectively. EK309/308, which uses an Airbus A340-300, has 267 seats arranged in three classes. It is a smart choice for quick and convenient connection to Dubai. A Chinese cabin crew, food and movies are available onboard.

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Chinglish? OK – As long as you can get it!



CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

To help the city prepare for the 2008 Olympics, I joined the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) in September 2007 and worked there for a year. There, Chinese volunteers like me worked shoulder-to-shoulder with international staff and fellow foreign volunteers. Many interesting encounters resulted because of language differences, especially between English and Chinese speakers.

Before test competitions in 2007, the hockey field was repainted and workers put up warning signs saying, "Attention! Paint is wet!" Our media operations advisor from Australia, Scott Answell, insisted on changing them to "Newly painted! Keep away please."

In the lead-up to the Games, we had meetings every day, in which we discussed every detail of the preparations. One day, when we were talking about how to conduct the best security checks, one Chinese vol-

unteer kept saying "safety" instead of "security"; like her, many of us were not aware of the difference between the two words.

"Our security awareness must be on high alert to ensure the safety of our spectators," Scott Answell said by way of illustrating the difference.

Nuno Barrads, our television broadcast supervisor, complained he was having a hard time learning Chinese. To encourage him, one Chinese colleague shared with him a famous Chinese proverb: "Good good study, day day up." Surprisingly, Scott, who was listening in on the conversation, understood it even though he had never before heard the proverb.

During the women's hockey final, in which the Chinese team faced the German team, the arena's 20,000 seats were filled to capacity, mostly by Chinese spectators. The competition manager advised us to be alert for any accidents, using another

famous Chinglish proverb: "People mountain, people sea," referring to the huge crowd like the high mountains and deep seas. Surprisingly, all the international staff members and volunteers understood his statement.

In a year of mingling with foreigners, I realized that not all Chinglish phrases are unacceptable. As Nuno Barrads said, "It is a good Chinglish phrase as long as I can understand it. The key is being able to communicate."

Just this past Spring Festival, Chinese people came up with a new Chinglish phrase that has become a hit among expats: Because this is the year of the ox in the lunar zodiac, people wrote "happy niu year" instead of "new."

Some of these experiences show that not all Chinglish is bad or difficult to understand. Context and the mode of delivery also count a lot.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a column of words or phrases commonly mis-used by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch out for it each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. The measures to stem employment

The writer clearly wishes to say that some measures, which have been adopted, will help stimulate employment. However, the person uses the verb "to stem" which means just the opposite. The word means to "dam up," as in a stream, and is synonymous with "stop," "check," "hinder" and "restrain." The right phrase is, "the measures to stimulate employment."

2. Have to be hurry

"To be" has no place being with "hurry," an intransitive verb. The writer here likely means to say, "Have to hurry up." When writing in English, take note of the function of words.

3. He is amazed how much change the country has seen.

Superficially, the sentence seems perfect. However, there is a fatal mistake. In English, "to be amazed" cannot be directly followed by an object clause. Instead you say, "He is amazed by how much change the country has seen," with "by" absolutely necessary in this sentence. Similarly you say, "He is gladdened by the changes he has witnessed over the years" or "He is disheartened by the failure."

Native speaker: Penny Turner

1. The measures to stem employment

I agree with Professor Zhu's correction. To readers, this is an amusing example of the writer saying the complete opposite of what he or she means. But this is no laughing matter if such an important idea gets mangled in a company report or government briefing. Measures to "boost" or "promote" employment can also work.

2. Have to be hurry

Does the writer wish to say "have to hurry/hurry up" or "have to be in a hurry"? I cannot tell from the little information there is. But definitely, "to be" gave this phrase its death sentence.

3. He is amazed how much change the country has seen.

The sentence indeed appears flawless, but like Professor Zhu said, it needs to add "by." This is not like the optional use of "on" in the sentence "The president arrived on Monday," or "that" in "She said that they are leaving tomorrow." But take heart, a foreign language is not called "foreign" for no reason.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

A nice electric shock



By Tiffany Tan

No electric shock is ever nice, no matter whom you ask. Except those who see it as a method of torture, I suppose.

But let's bar sadists from this discussion for now. The sign is one you might see in a factory, a power plant or the basement of a building. It literally says "strong electric current," which plainly means, Stay away! Shoo!

"Nice" is such a common English word; "Nice to meet you," "Have a nice day!" "You are very nice" that you think the writer would have thought twice about using it to describe an electric shock.

Movie of the week

Being an adult does not mean you have to give up animation. Compared to some obtuse movies with painfully intricate plots, a good cartoon makes complicated things easy to understand. *Igor* is an animated movie that suddenly reveals the road before you, even though you would expect it to be "kiddish." Sometimes the world is so simple, and as Igor said, "We do not need to be evil to survive." This film will open your heart to universal truths and leave you feeling calm and enlightened.

Synopsis

In the country of Malaria, the evil invention competition is held every year to find out who is the most evil scientist. Each scientist has an assistant called "Igor" who obeys all their instructions. But there is one Igor who is different. He dreams of becoming an evil scientist so that he will never have to answer to another master again. He secretly invented life, which nobody else has ever done. The invention, a huge ugly doll mistook her name "Evil" as "Eva" and wanted to become an actor. To achieve his dream, Igor devised an evil drama for Eva to act in, but later he learned of a great conspiracy, and the task of saving the world from evil was laid on him.



Scene 1

(Igor's self introduction)

Igor (I): All Igors are forced to serve Evil Scientists. Our life is a permanent graveyard shift (1). But I never wanted to be an Igor. I've always wanted to be an Evil Scientist. Unfortunately, the hunch on my back was a one-way ticket to Igor School. I majored in Talking With a Slur and graduated with a Yes Masters Degree. Then, it was off to find a job. "Hi, I'm here about the 'Igor Wanted' ad. My name's Igor. Well, of course it is. I've got a hunch on my back. What's my name gonna be? Kevin?" They didn't appreciate my creative style. But eventually, I landed a job (2) for Dr. Glickenstein.

Scene 2

(Igor paid all his money to have Eva brainwashed to be evil, but she was mistakenly made into an actress.)

I: We need to unbrainwash her!

Fly (F): No can do, pal. Every wash comes with a sealant guaranteed to last a lifetime. In other words, buzz off (3)!

Eva (E): OK, things to do ... sign up for yoga classes, get new headshots (4), adopt children from all over the world. Oh! Time for my elocution (5) exercises. I need a box of biscuits. I need a box of biscuits.

I: It's just failure after failure.

Scamper (S): After failure, after failure ... Oh, sorry, I thought we were counting off all your failures.

E: Biscuit mixer, a box of mix ... A box of mixed biscuits and a biscuit mixer. I need a box ... Stop the carriage!

I: Ow! What? What's the matter?

E: I don't mean to be a prima donna (6), but I think I need a bigger trailer.

I: After failure, after failure, after failure ...

S: After failure, after failure ...

Scene 3

(Igor thinks up an idea to turn Eva evil.)

E: Oh, you guys are so lucky to have work. If only I had a role I could

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